File No. 87/2/47 Public,
1947. Vol I

Collection No.

MINISTRY
N

C. R. No.
DIARY No.....

Ministry of Home Affairs.

Pros.
Serial Nos.

Notes

Subject.
National Flag.

28/6.

Previous References.

Later References.

41/5/48 Public

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97 (Unbleached).
(6702/A/51-653)—3-12-46—5,000,000

USES AND ABUSES OF

OUR NATIONAL FLAG.

(2)

Now that the first flush of Independence Day celebrations is over it was time that the authorities concerned issued some definite directives and instructions with regard to the proper uses of the National Flag.

It must have be observed that during the last two weeks, particularly since the 14th and 15th of August, every important advertisement in any newspaper of any significance has been illustrated with some National Symbol either the Flag or the Chakra and in some cases by the symbol of the Seal of the State, which has yet to be finalized. This, I respectfully state is not quite desirable. Everywhere in every country there are set rules and regulations for the appropriate use of the Flag.

Before the market is flooded with "Tri-Colour" brand cigarettes, cigars and perhaps chewing gum and whiskies the Government should issue necessary directives laying down definite rules and regulations to safeguard against any misuse of the Nations' most cherished and honoured Symbol. In the United States of America, for example, the Government have made certain rules prohibiting the use of their National Flag in any form whatsoever for advertising purposes. They have even gone to the length that they would not allow any advertisement sign to be fastened to the staff from which the Flag is flown. Only during the war years there was some relaxation of these rules when some of the leading manufacturers were allowed to decorate the advertisemets by means of a National Flag or some similar sign but this was done only in those cases when the firms concerned had rendered certain merritorious services to the Nation or to the Armed Forces.

Another important factor to be taken into consideration, apart from the commercial exploitation and misuse of the Flag is the flying of the Flag over private cars and vehicles. I am personally not fully conversant with the rules and regulations governing this in other countries

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but now that the "Tri-Colour" has become the National Flag of the State every Tom, Dick and Harry should not be allowed to fly it on his car or his bicycle. This distinction is, I believe, exclusively reserved for the Head of the State, the Ministers and other Provincial Ministers and dignitories etc.

Issuing of detailed rules and regulations in this connection will ultimately come under the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs, but I think initial move in this respect should be made by the Head of the Supreme authority of the country, i.e. the Constituent Assembly. I therefore respectfully submit the above to Hon'ble the President for any action that he may consider necessary and proper.

Sd/- Dharam Yash Dev).
2.9.47.

H.P.

We should take up the matter with the Home Deptt. and ask rules to be laid down for the use of the Flag and other Symbols. The matter has to be studied in reference to the practice in other countries. Perhaps the External Affairs Ministry will also be able to help in framing the Government policy.

Sd/- Illegible.
3.9.47.

This may now be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Sd/- Illegible.
3.9.47.

U.S. may please see and do the needful.

Sd/- Illegible.
3.9.47.

Ministry of Home Affairs.
Ministry of External Affairs.
U.O.No.CA/48-Pub/47. dated 5.9.47.

Ministry of Home Affairs.

We are collecting information, as regards old files etc. as far as may be available, prescribing any rules for the flying of national flags.

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(4)

We should be grateful if the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (E.A.Wing) could get us from some of the foreign embassies e.g. Canada, U.K. and Australia as to what rules have been prescribed for the use of the National Flags, who should fly them always etc. The Foreign Government representatives may be requested to send to this Ministry direct any rules they may have with respect to their Governments. We may then be able to formulate same regulations in the matter. This may be treated as 'Priority' .

Sd/-A.V.Raman.
17.9.47.

Ministry of E.A. & C.R. (Rai Sahib J.Natarajan).
Ministry of Home Affairs U.O.No.Dy.3158/47-Pub(B) dt. 18.9.47

S. Nos 1—2 (Issue)

Serial No. 3.

Papers containing discussions as to flying of flags on Government buildings on suitable occasions have been requisitioned from the National Archives of India. As soon as these papers are received the file will be put up formally. Meanwhile Ministries of E.A.& C.R., Defence and Commerce have also been requested to furnish this Ministry with the rules they have on this account vide Serial Nos 1 and 2 and notes preceding.

[illegible]

Serial Nos.4-5.

Please see notes preceding. The matter is under consideration and it will take some time to come to a final decision. An interim reply may be sent to the Govt. of Bombay. A draft is put up for approval.

A V Raman
23.9.47

Serial no (6) Issue

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(5)

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

File is resubmitted with reference to Bombay Government's letter at Serial No.3 wherein they have made an urgent reference enquiring the occasions on which the flags should be flown on Government Buildings. They have made an urgent enquiry presumably for the reason whether the flag should be flown on the occasion of the Birthday of Mahatama Gandhi which falls on the 2nd October next. In this connection attention is invited to (1) para. 4 of the Home Department letter to all Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners No.90, dated the 4th April, 1917; and (2) para. 7 of the Home Department letter Nos.2620-2631, dated 4th December, 1919. It will be observed from these letters that complete freedom was given to the Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners to fly flags on such occasions as they ~~think~~ thought fit subject to the inclusion of four anniversaries viz. New Year's Day, Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession (May 6th), Coronation Durbar Day (12th December), and King's Birthday. It is now for consideration whether in view of the constitutional changes there is any justification to fly flags on these days. Office venture to suggest that whatever may be the decision in respect of flying of flags, National Flag should be flown on Mahatama Gandhi's Birthday which is a unique occasion in the history of India. Pending decision on the general question regarding the occasions on which flags should be flown, we may issue orders for the flying of flags on Mahatamaji's Birthday which falls on 2nd October 1947. Such orders will no doubt be in accordance with the general desire of the public and will be much appreciated by them.

Some Provincial Governments have already declared 2nd October as public holiday. Pending decision on the general question regarding holidays to be observed in future, it is suggested that Mahatama Gandhi's Birthday may be declared as a public holiday throughout India under the

Flag 'H'
H.D.Pro. April 1917 Nos. 34-36.

Flag 'R'
H.D.Pro. A. June 1919 Nos. 22-29

Flag 'T'

This is under consideration and we have told Bombay they can declare a holiday and 25.9.

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Negotiable Instruments Act.

(6)

26.9.47.
26.9.47

A-5(C)

In connection with rules for flying of national flags, I have made reference to the Ministry of E.A & C.R (so far as Dominion Govts are concerned, as also U.S.A etc) for getting us some information on the practice in those countries. The Defence Ministry have also been requested for some papers. The Commerce Ministry, who, I am told, have been considering the flying of national flags on ships, have been requested to show us papers. The National Archives of India have been asked to produce some old pp. on the subject.

It is suggested we may reply Bombay Govt saying that the rules for flying of national flags are under consideration, and they can fly the national flag on the occasion of Mahatmaji's Birthday. A telegram may be sent. D.S(P) may however see before the reply is sent as he is aware of the whole position.

A Bannerjee
28.9.47

D.S(P) I agree that we may send a reply to Bombay as proposed.

The matter is of considerable importance and requires examination. Orders will then be obtained in due course and no other action is possible at this stage.

28/9/47

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(7)

-6-

(From overleaf)

A draft Ex: telegram is put up.

29.9.47.

Drone
A V Raman
29.9.47.

Sl. No 7 (Issue)

/Notes in the Ministry of Defence/

(Reference Sr. No. 1.)

Will Supreme Commander's Headquarters, A.G's Branch (AG-Coord) please let us know the relevant rules governing the use of the Union Jack as also any further information they may have on the subject which may be of assistance to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

L.G.Mirchandani, 19.9.47.

D.D.P.S.

The only rules known to this Directorate are contained in -

(a) K.R.969 and Appx.VIII (see foot-notes)

(b) R.A.I. (Instructions) 776-779.

(c) E.R.I.

2. It will be observed that R.A.I.(Instructions) 778 has been modified by A.I.I.337/47, in respect of Formation Headquarters.

Perhaps the D.W.E. will offer further comment.

Sd.Illegible, Col.,
D.D.P.S., 23.9.47.

D.W.E.

While service regulations will govern the flying of flags (types and occasions) by the Services I imagine that what the Ministry of Home Affairs requires a guide to rules governing civilians.

We.....

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/Notes in the Ministry of Defence contd./ (8)

We have nothing of this nature and I cannot recollect even having seen any such rules. (If there are any they do not seem to carry much weight judging from the number of Union Jacks one has seen flying on private cars in various parts of the Empire and at home.

Sd. Illegible, Brig. ✓
24. 9. 47.
D.W.E.

D.D.P.S.

It is regretted that no further information can be provided than contained in notes above. It appears to be largely a matter of custom. Perhaps the High Commissioner for the U.K. could advise.

Sd. Illegible, Col.
25.9.47.
C.D.P.S.(A.G's Branch).

Ministry of Defence (India).
D.6

The Ministry of Home Affairs may see the attached noting with reference to their o.m.

Sd. Illegible, for U.S.,
29.9.47.

Ministry of Defence.

Seen in the Ministry of Home Affairs and returned with thanks. A copy of notes have been kept for our file.

Sd. A.V.Raman, 2.10.47.

Ministry of Defence.

(Ministry of Home Affairs.)

Ministries of E.A. + C.R. and Commerce have been reminded
R.S.
6/X/47
G.S.(c)

Cur. pp. 11-14

Serial no. 8 to

Issue o.M. to Defence Ministry Ireland
A.V.Raman
15.10.47

Cur. p15
Serial - 9 Issue

Cur. 16
S.no. 10
S.no. 11 — Issue

Cur. 17

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(9)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT INDIA

D.O.No. D.4456-G/47.

New Delhi 3.

The 7th October, 1947.

D.3743/47-Pub(B)
9-10-47

Dear Chancery,

The Government of India intend to prescribe rules for the proper use of the Indian National Flag with particular reference to the persons who are entitled to fly the flag, including the occasions on and the objects from which it should be flown. The rules would also include prohibitions against its misuse. Before formulating these rules, they wish to know whether there are any rules or directives on the subject framed by the Government of the *** It is requested that enquiries may kindly be made in this matter and such information as is available supplied to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India,

*** U.S.A.
U.S.S.R.
China.

direct....

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(10) -9-

direct together with a copy of rules, if any, under intimation to this Ministry.

Yours ever,

Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.

To

The Chancery,

Indian Embassy, Washington
Moscow
Nanking.

Copy forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, with reference to their U/O No.3158/47-Public, dated 18th September 1947.

By order, etc.,

(M.K.Narayanan)
Assistant Secretary to the
Govt. of India.

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(19)

No. 87/2/47-Pub (B)

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS,
New Delhi 3, the 10th October, 1947.

Issued
10/9.

My dear Reeve,

I return with thanks the Admiralty Publication, Flags of All Nations borrowed of your Branch. Will you kindly return it to the Staff Officer from whom you obtained for me? I am sorry I have forgotten his designation so that I do not like to send it to him direct with an incorrect address lest the book should be lost. I also tried to ring you up but could not get you. Will you kindly ring me up on receipt of the book?

Hope we will meet before you leave Delhi.

Yours sincerely,

S.W. Reeve, Esquire,
Officer Supervisor,
Naval Headquarters,
(Block A, Room No.3),
NEW DELHI.

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(12)

D.O.No.87/2/47-Public (B).
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS,
New Delhi 3, the 15th October, 1947.

My dear Padmanabhan,

I return with thanks the papers which I brought from you regarding National Flag. Please acknowledge receipt.

2. Will you kindly let me know how soon ~~you~~ we can have the 400 prints of the National Flag drawings of which I have written to you?

Yours sincerely,

D/c and

K.V. Padmanabhan, Esquire,
Under Secretary,
Constituent Assembly Secretariat,
NEW DELHI.

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Captain (S) R.V. Brockman, CIE, CBE, R.N. (13)

-12-

Government House,
~~The Viceroy's House.~~
New Delhi.

No. 34.

30th September, 1947.

Dy No. 162/48—Pub.B
15—1—48

Dear Banerjee,

I attach a copy of a telegram I have received from the Governor's Secretary West Bengal, together with a copy of my reply. Owing to the need for an early reply I have sent an answer direct without consulting you, especially as it is quite a straightforward matter; but you may wish to consider whether it is worth while circularising other Governors' Secretaries in case there are further queries.

Yours sincerely,

R.V. Brockman

Private Secretary.

R.N. Banerjee, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi.

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(14)

EN CLAIR TELEGRAM.

FROM: P.S.G.G. India
TO : GOVSEC. WEST BENGAL,
CALCUTTA.

(IMMEDIATE)

~~KGKRGMINGXKRGMXRRIXATEXSECRETARYXTOXGOXKERNGRXGENERALXSTGR~~

No.195-E.C.I. YOUR TELEGRAM 273/C OF 28th SEPTEMBER STOP THE GOVERNORS FLAG IS A PERSONAL FLAG AND IS NOT HAULED DOWN EXCEPT WHEN HE PROCEEDS ON TOUR OR VACATES HIS APPOINTMENT STOP

2. ON CEREMONIAL OR STATE OCCASIONS WHEN BUILDINGS ARE DRESSED APPROPRIATE FLAGS ARE FLOWN FROM ROOF TOPS OR OTHER SEPARATE INFERIOR FLAGSTAFFS WHICH MAY BE PLACED FOR OCCASION STOP

.....

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14-A

CONFIDENTIAL.
450.

Telegram Grade C.

From: Governors Secretary West Bengal, Calcutta.

To : Governor General, India.

No.273/C

Dated 28th (recd 29th Sept) 1947. T.O.O 1145
T.O.R.1500

IMMEDIATE

Following for Private Secretary to Governor-General India. Is there any procedure thought out for hoisting of the state flag on Governors residences on Gandhi jee's birthday? What happens to the Governor's flag on the occasion ? I would like to be informed in time about the uniform procedure evolved.

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(15)

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

The Secretary to the Governor of West Bengal telegraphed to the Governor-General enquiring what should be the proper procedure for hoisting the State flag on Governors' Residences on Gandhi Ji's birthday. Governor-General's Secretary has replied that the Governor's flag should be continued to be flown and other appropriate flags might also be flown from roof tops or from other separate inferior flag-staffs.

2. This was received by me on the 1st and I was unable to contact H.M. I had discussed with H.M. on the eve of the 15th August certain matters such as the flag and the crest and gathered that H.M. desired that any new decision on such matters must be kept pending for the present. We have not had any further queries from any Governor and I do not think that any general instructions need be issued now.

H.M.

3-10-47
(R.N.BANERJEE)
SECRETARY.

H.M. has seen.

2. H.M. feels that we could now take up the question of flag, crest etc. connected with ceremonials, celebrations etc.

V. Shankar
4.10.47
PS.

Sd/-

with D.S. please speak?

6/10/47

D.S.(K) Spoken to Secretary. Will A.S.(C) please bring up whatever material he has so far collected and discuss?

9 Oct

A.S. (Mr. Raman)

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MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

Note on National Flag.

The National Flag was designed just before the declaration of Independence of India so that there was no time to lay down any detailed rules and regulations in connection with the use of the National Flag. It has been observed that every important advertisement in any newspaper of any significance has been illustrated with some national symbol either the flag or the chakra and in some cases by the symbol of the seal of the state which is yet to be finalised. The Tri-Colour is already being used widely on cigarettes, cigars etc. This is not desirable and we have to safeguard the cherished national symbol.

2. Every country has framed rules and regulations for the appropriate use of the flag; the kinds of flags to be used by the army, the navy and the air force, other high personages of the State, Federating or Acceding States of the Federal Union where these exist etc; the occasions on which flags are to be flown, and the prohibition of the abuse of the flag.

3. A reference was made in this connection to the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations to get for us information regarding the rules for National Flags obtaining in foreign/commonwealth countries and they have addressed the Chancery U.S.A./Moscow/Nanking for information as to appropriate flags in use in those countries. The Constituent Assembly have also collected certain information in connection with the designs of the National Flag.

4. There are no standard books which have compiled information on the rules and regulations regarding flags. The main references readily available in this case are the Publication by H.M. Stationery Office, 'Flags of all Nations' which contains King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions regarding the use of the Union Jack in the U.K.

* Pp 8-9 ante

Vide extracts in Folder II below

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The Encyclopaedia Britannica, 11th Edition has also an article on 'National Flags'. Another publication, the 'Encyclopaedia Americana' has also an article on flags in general and flags in use in the U.S.A. The Constituent Assembly obtained a copy of a printed pamphlet from the U.K. High Commissioner in India, 'Memorandum regarding British Regulations and practices - Union Jacks and Royal Standards'. That Secretariat have collected some other information from various sources copies of which have been made for the present purpose.

vide Folder III below

vide Folder I below

vide Folder IV below

5. In para. 3 of our Circular to the Provincial Governments in connection with the Independence Day Celebrations No.87/47-Public (B), dated the 29th July, 1947, we mentioned inter alia that, for the future, we shall arrange to keep in stock National Flags of different sizes at a central store on which indents could be made as and when required. This is mainly to prevent abuse of the manufacture of the National Flag by all and sundry and making profits thereon. This will also maintain the dignity and standard of our National Flag. In fact in all countries, the military authorities store these flags e.g. the Admiralty at Chatham in the U.K.

Ship T/p.2

6. It is understood that the Commerce Ministry have also taken up on their file No.73M-I/47, the question of the adoption by India of a National Flag for Indian Ships belonging both to Government and private owners. The relevant reference, in this connection, is to the provisions in the Merchant Shipping Act 1894, under which rules for the flags to be flown on ships and other connected matters have to be prescribed.

7. It is now for us to determine the kinds of flags to be used by the Civil Authorities, the Army, the Navy and the Air Forces, high ranking officers like the Governor-General, Governors, the Prime Minister, the Acceding States of the Indian Dominion etc. In this

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connection it may be pointed out that, on a Constituent Assembly file, the Hon'ble the President of the Assembly noted that the work of the Constituent Assembly ceased with the designing of the National Flag for the Indian Dominion and it was for the Government of India in the appropriate Ministries concerned to take up the modification of the National Flag for the various uses of its different units concerned such as Army, Navy etc., stated above and frame the necessary rules and regulations for the use of the flag and prevention of its abuse.

8. Information collected from the sources mentioned in the notes preceding has been put into folders I to VI below.

9. The points for consideration are -

(i) the adaptation of the National Flag for the use of:-

(a) civilians;

(b) the Army, the Navy, the Air Force;

(c) the merchant shipping (or Mercantile Marine);

(d) the Governor-General, the Governors, the Prime Minister of the Dominion and other high ranking officers;

(e) the Acceding States of the Indian Dominion;

(f) the Embassies, the Consulates and other diplomatic offices of the Indian Dominion established abroad:

(ii) the various sizes of the flags for the purposes mentioned against (i), the central place of manufacture and the central store for stocks and sale;

(iii) the framing of rules and regulations for the use of the National Flag and prohibition of its abuse on the lines of those prevalent in other countries e.g., U.K;

(iv) the occasions on which National Flags should be flown in the Indian Dominion and at the various embassies etc., abroad.

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10. The question is very important and complicated. It is felt therefore that it cannot be decided except by a Sub-Committee represented by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Defence (associated with the representatives of the Army, Navy and the Air Forces) and the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. It is therefore submitted that we may immediately set up this Sub-Committee which can go into the question thoroughly and exhaustively in all its aspects and submit its recommendations as soon as possible by a date that may be decided upon by Secretary. These will have to be finally approved by the Cabinet. The material collected seems to be sufficient to give a background. Should the Committee desire any further information it may be possible to obtain it easily. It may also be relevant to point out in this connection that the Indian Union might have its views on the subject which it is not possible to forestall at this stage.

11. As regards the Coat of Arms and Crest for use by the Indian Dominion, this, as Secretary may be aware, is already under consideration of the Constituent Assembly and it will take some time to finalise the design. The file is understood to be with the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Our Hon'ble Minister has already noted that until such time the new design is ready, the present Coat of Arms can continue to be used.

12. It is suggested that the terms of reference to the Flag Sub-Committee may be more or less on the lines of para. 9 above.

A V Raman
20.10.47

V/S/(G)

I think the appropriate course would be to set up a committee, as suggested, to go into this question in all its details. The question is important and intricate

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and we must have the advice of expert representatives from at least the Defence, Commerce and E.A. & C.R. Ministries. If Secy. approves, we will put this suggestion to the Ministries concerned and, if they agree, proceed with the setting up of the proposed committee under Secy.'s directions.

(E.C.Gaynor)
22.10.47.

Secy.

we may step further nothing. please forepare a note on the variations which the Hon'ble Law had for various purposes & convene a meeting of all ministers concerned. The note shd be for the guidance of the meeting shd be circulated to all concerned before the meeting.

D.S.(G) 30/10

Draft memo to Ministries concerned placed below should issue at once. The draft has been approved by D.S(G) and should issue over his signature. A copy each should be given to Secretary and D.S(G). One copy should be sent to Constituent Assembly with the covering O.M. placed below.

A.V.Ramani
1.11.47

Ser. 18-24 Serial No. (12) - Issue
" 25 Serial No (13) - Issue

Pub(B)

(21)

No reply to our memo. on p.15/cor. has been received from the Ministry of Defence. They may be reminded as in the DFA.

RMS 3.XI.47

BN Sharma, 3.11.47

S.no. 14- Issue

Cor p.26

Serial no. 15-16

Cor pp.27-28

For information. Ministries of Commerce, Defence, E.A.F.C.R. and States have not so far intimated the names of their representatives.

2. From para. 2 of our O.M. dated 1/2nd Nov. 47, it will be seen that the meeting was fixed tentatively for Friday the 14th Nov. 1947. If this date is confirmed the Ministries concerned will have to be informed accordingly.

BNS 11.11.47

BBC

In view of the request by E.A.F.C.R Ministry to postpone the meeting fixed for 14.11.47 for reasons stated in Serial 16, we should inform Ministries concerned as in draft put up. The E.A.F.C.R Ministry should also be requested to let us know the earliest possible date for the meeting ~~the draft O.M. to E.A.F.C.R Ministry below~~ as the matter is urgent. ~~should also issue~~

A.V Raman 12.11.47

Cor pp.18-24.

17

S.No. (16) Issue.

Cor p.29

As desired by D.S(G)., I enquired of the E.A.F.C.R. Ministry as to when we can convene the postponed meeting re: national flags. I was informed that as a few replies from foreign embassies are still awaited and we are requested to hold the meeting early in January 1948 the matter is put up for orders.

A.V Raman 4.12.47

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There are clear instructions laying down the premises on which, and the officials by whom, the flags should be flown. The practice of anybody and everybody flying the flag on the 15th August and thereafter to mark the jubilation of the public is understandable. The old Government looked upon the flag with dis-favour and jubilation over the flag becoming our official National Flag is natural. The ordinary convention, however, is that the official flag can be flown only by the holders of certain privileged offices. As is well known flags are flown on certain Government buildings and by certain high ranking officials. Any and every individual - official or non-official - does not of course have the privilege of flying the official flag on their houses or on the bonnets of their motor cars. In fact such practice is considered contrary to all recognised convention.

Please examine this matter thoroughly with a view to deciding whether any instructions should issue prescribing the premises and occasions on which and the officials by whom the official flag should be flown.

31-10-47
(R.N.BANERJEE)
SECRETARY.

This may be discussed at the committee meeting on 'National Flags' fixed tentatively for the 14th November 1947 at 3 P.M. D.S.(G) should also see

A.V.Raman
31.10.47

D.S.(G) Yes: this should be one of the items for discussion at the meeting which Secretary has approved.

1.11.47

This has been included in the terms of reference mentioned in our O.M. to Ministries dated 3.11.47

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(23)

I find from Keith's Responsible Government in the Dominions (Vol. III, page 1314), that the flying of flags is regulated by "Colonial Regulations Nos. 148-55" We have telegraphed to our High Commissioner in the U.K. asking him to send this Ministry a copy of these Regulations as soon as possible. It should be useful at the meeting of representatives which we are endeavouring to get together. The proposed meeting has been held up because the E.A. & C.R. Ministry have not yet received complete information from their Embassies, particularly from Washington and Moscow. Washington has been reminded and information from Moscow has been sent by Air Mail but not yet received. I have asked the E.A. & C.R. Ministry to show us their file, when we should be able to fix the date on which the proposed meeting should be held.

2. On the particular question of flying of flags on cars, it has been ascertained from the Dominion representatives in Delhi that there is no written law on the subject; that, by convention, only high officials fly the Union flag on their cars and that it is left to the good sense of others to respect this privilege.

Secretary may see with reference to this note on page 21.

(E.C. Gaynor)
8.12.47.

Secy.

I have recorded a note on certain other aspects of this matter on the file referred. Will D.S. please see that?

9/12/47

× linked file

hold AS(C) pse-a reminder 29/12

AS(C) Reminder sent

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Council House,

New Delhi, the 8th December, 1947.

D.163/47—Public
15-1-48

Dear Mr.Gaynor,

I am sending herewith extracts from the Dominion Office and Colonial Office List, 1939, relating to the use of the British Flag in the Dominions and Colonies of the British Empire. We have not yet been able to get hold of the texts of the relevant regulations, but the search is continuing, and if we are able to spot out any of them, I shall forward them to you.

You have perhaps looked up Keith already, nevertheless I am jotting down below some references from Keith's book on 'Responsible Governments in the Dominions' for your use:-

(a) The use of Flag (International intercourse and co-operation with Imperial Navy)--pp.1008-9.

(b) Flags (flags of the Dominion and the mode of use of various flags)--pp.1030-31.

(c) Controversy regarding South African Flag--p.1251.

It appears that the Admiralty Book of Flags contains the Issue colour flags of all the Dominions and its variations. It also contains regulations regarding the use of U.K. flags. The book belongs to the Naval Head-Quarters Library, but is apparently out at the moment.

I hope that the above information will be of some assistance to you. If you want further details, I ~~hope~~ would be glad you will give me a ring.

Yours sincerely,

(K.V.Padmanabhan)

E.C.Gaynor, Esq., MBE,
Deputy Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(Extract from Dominion Office and Colonial Office List - 1939)
pp 885-886.

Flags.

124: The Union Flag, without any badge, will be flown at Government House daily from sunrise to sunset.

125: The Union Flag, with the approved arms or badge of the Colony emblazoned in the centre thereof on a white ground surrounded by a green garland (as shown in the drawing in Appendix 5), will be used by a Governor or other officer administering a Government, when embarked in a boat or other vessel.

(Not shown)

126: The British Blue Ensign with the arms or badge of the Colony emblazoned in the centre of the fly, i.e. in the centre of that part between the Union and the end of the flag, shall be worn at the stern and a blue pendant at the masthead by all armed vessels which belong to or are in the service of the Government of a Colony. (See drawing in Appendix 6). Such vessels when not armed shall wear at the stern the blue ensign with the badge of the Colony emblazoned as aforesaid but shall not fly a pendant.

127: All other vessels registered as belonging to His Majesty's subjects in His Majesty's Colonies or Dependencies will fly the red ensign without any badge unless otherwise authorised by warrant from His Majesty or from the Admiralty. Colonial merchant vessels may carry distinguishing flags with the badge of the Colony thereon, in addition to the red ensign, provided that such flags do not infringe Section 73(2) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

128: Whenever a requisition is received by any officer in command of one of His Majesty's ship for the embarkation or conveyance of a Governor or other officer administering a Government, the senior naval officer present may direct the flag which such official is entitled to use to be hoisted at the foretop-gallant masthead of the ship in which he is embarked; provided that after consultation with, and on requisition from, that official, the senior naval officer considers it for the benefit of the service about to be performed that such

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

flag should be hoisted, and provided that it is only hoisted or carried within the limits of the Government.

129. If the senior officer considers it, in any circumstances, undesirable to hoist the flag, he will inform the Governor or other official concerned, of his reasons and will at once report the same to the Admiralty.

130: In the event of a Governor or officer administering the Government of a Colony being detached on a foreign mission in his official capacity, special instructions will be issued in each case as to the flag which should be carried by the man-of-war in which he may be embarked. In the absence of such instructions the senior naval officer present will exercise his discretion in consultation with the officer proceeding on the mission.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

27

Ministry of External Affairs and
Commonwealth Relations (C.R.Wing)

Subject:- Rules regarding the proper use of National Flags etc.

Reference this Ministry endorsement No.D.2592/47-O.S.III dated 30.10.47.

A copy of letter No. M(3)HCI dated 16.12.47 together with a list of days on which flags are to be flown on Commonwealth Buildings received from the High Commissioner for India, Canberra is forwarded herewith to the Ministry of Home Affairs for necessary action. Replies from the Indian High Commissioners in Canada and U.K. will be sent to that Ministry when received.

P.Mahadi
Deputy Secretary.

Dy(U)
Dy No. 114/48—Pub (B)
10—1—48

To me after legn. and 9.1.48
Public (B)
111

Ministry of Home Affairs

Ministry of External Affairs &
Commonwealth Relations
(C. R. Wing)

U/o No. 2592/47-OS III Dr 6/1

Serials 18-20, 22 (Receipts)

Serial (21) - Issue

Serials (23)-(24) - Issue

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28

28

M (3) HCI

High Commissioner for India,
Canberra.

16th December, 1947.

The Secretary to the
Government of India,
Ministry of External Affairs
and Commonwealth Relations,
NEW DELHI

Dy No. 164/48-Pol.
15-1-48

Sir,

Subject:- Rules regarding the proper use of National Flags.

With reference to your letter No. D.2592/47-O.S.III dated 30th October, 1947, on the above subject, I have the honour to state that there is no Australian Legislation governing the purposes for which the Australian flag may be used. The Commonwealth Government have, however, been issuing official statements on the subject from time to time and the latest statement issued by the prime Minister of Australia on the 24th February, 1947, is reproduced below:-

ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"A"

LIST OF DAYS ON WHICH FLAGS ARE TO BE FLOWN ON COMMONWEALTH BUILDINGS.

(From 8 a.m. till sunset).

(Flags are flown at the masthead except as shown hereunder in regard to Anzac Day and Remembrance Day).

Anniversay of the establishment of the Commonwealth.	1st January.
Australia Day.	26th January (and on the public holiday observed by Commonwealth offices in the States and Territories.
Birthday of Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth.	21st April.
Anzac Day.	25th April (halfmast until noon, then raised to the masthead until sunset, except in Queensland where flags are to be flown at halfmast all day in order to conform with the practice of all institutions in that State.)
Anniversary of the inauguration of Canberra as the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth.	9th May (in Canberra only)
Anniversary of His Majesty's Coronation.	12th May.
Empire Day.	24th May (and on any day appointed by a State Government for Empire Day Celebrations).
Queen Mary's Birthday.	26th May.
Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.	4th August.
Remembrance Day.	Sunday before 11th November (unless either 11th November or 12th November is a Sunday); (At masthead from 8 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. half-mast from 10.30 a.m. till 11.3 a.m.. At masthead for the remainder of the day.)
Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession.	11th December.
Birthday of His Majesty.	14th December (and on the public holiday observed by Commonwealth Offices in the States and Territories; also on any other day appointed for the official celebration of the Birthday).

In addition, flags are to be flown on Commonwealth Buildings in the States of New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia, respectively, in connection with the following "local

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

anniversary" days:-

New South Wales 28th April (Anniversary of Captain Cook's landing).

Western Australia. 1st June.

South Australia. 28th December.

It is desired that the Commonwealth practice in respect of these days should correspond with that of the State Government. If, therefore, any day other than the actual date is appointed for observance, Commonwealth Departments in the States mentioned should ascertain the day or days on which flags will be flown on State Government buildings, and take action accordingly.

Prime Minister's Department,
CANBERRA.

October 1946.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Ministry of States.
New Delhi,
The 25th December 1947.

Dy No. 124/48—Pub (B)
12—1—48

My dear Banerjee,

I enclose a copy of a letter from ~~xxx~~. the Yuvaraja of Morvi regarding the National Flag of India. You are probably looking into this question, but an early decision on the policy is clearly indicated.

Yours sincerely,

Vallabhbhai

R. N. Banerjee, Esq., CSI., CIE., ICS.,
Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

PPS. Pl. see
Secy has seen
29/12 AS(C)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(32)

Copy of letter dated 12.12.47 from H.H. the Yuvaraja of Morvi to the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

THE NATIONAL FLAG OF INDIA.

I have been thinking for a long time to write to you that the dignity and respect for the Flag in my humble opinion is being lowered day by day. I have seen the Flag flying on Restaurants, hair-cutting saloons, taxies and private cars and properties. I presume that when the National Flag of our beloved Motherland was designed by high and eminent Government officials and respectable gentlemen of India, it was never dreamt that the dignity and respect of the Flag should be allowed to be lowered by using it in this way. I think therefore some uniform standard should be adopted by the Indian Government, to maintain respect and dignity of such a sacred and National Flag. Even in England, the Union Jack, the National Flag of England is very sparingly used, and that has kept the dignity and respect of the Flag. I think India too should do the same. Being a person born in the Prince's family and the next heir to the "Gadi" of Morvi, I feel that the Flag belongs to me just as much as it belongs to any other persons in India, and therefore, I am writing and appealing to you to consider my appeal and find out a solution so that the respect and dignity of our Dear Flag, which has taken years of sacrifice to obtain, be maintained.

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33

D.O.No.87/2/47-Public(B).
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi 3, the 12th January, 1948.

12/1/48.

Dear Mr. Ganesan,

I am desired to refer to Mr. Desai's D.O. of the 25th December 1947 to Mr. R.N. Banerjee regarding the National Flag of India. As you know, we are convening a meeting of representatives of several Ministries on this subject on 16.1.48 on which your Ministry is being represented. We propose to issue some interim instructions concerning flags soon after this meeting. We presume this information will be sufficient so far as it concerns the present rererence.

Yours sincerely,

C. Ganesan, Esquire,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of States, New Delhi.

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(34)

MINISTRY OF STATES. Immediate.

Sub : National Flag.

Will the Ministry of Home Affairs kindly refer to their Office Memorandum no. F.87/2/47-Public (B), dated the 6th January, 1948?

2. Mr. C. Ganesan, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of States, will attend the proposed meeting at 3 p.m. on Friday the 16th January, 1948, in Room No. 104, South Block.

(A.N.Bhanot Nisar)

Dy No. 111/48—Pub.(B)
dated 8-1-48

Ministry of Home Affairs
Ministry of States u.o. no. D.163-G/48, dated the 8th January, 1948.

Above & Serial (25)-FR

RB.

1. Above note.
2. Pl. See also Serial (25) Receipt
3. The following will be present for the meeting

Ministry States - Mr. C. Ganesan, Dy. Secy
" Transport - " Tofal Lall
" Commerce - " L.K. Jha* ~~(Official letter awaited)~~
~~" Communications~~
" Defence - " Mr M.K.* Ganguly
" E.A.&C.R. - " R.S.T.-J. Natarajan
" Const. Assembly - " Jugal Kishore* Khanna

* Official letter awaited

A.V Raman
15-1-48

Serial 26 - Receipt

Serial 27 - Receipt

Noted in AV Ramans 15.1.48

(33)

AIR HEADQUARTERS INDIA.
PERSONAL SERVICES (I).

FLAGS.

Reference is made to your office memoranda No. F.7/47/COORD., dated 5th and 11th November, 1947.

2. The following information and suggestions are forwarded as desired.

The flag of the RIAF is the light blue ensign of the RAF with the Star of India superimposed upon it. The official design of this ensign signed by His Majesty the King is held in this Headquarters. The flying of the flag by the Indian Air Force was ordered by His Majesty the King in 1944. On the 13th August 1947 the Viceroy and the Defence Minister agreed that this ensign should continue to be flown by units of the RIAF as long as India remained within the Commonwealth. It was also agreed by the Viceroy and the Defence Minister that Units of the RIAF should fly this ensign at the "gaff" while at the flag-staff head of all units should be flown the National Flag of India. It is suggested that this procedure should continue.

In the United Kingdom the only "person" permitted to fly the RAF ensign is the Senior Combatant Officer of the Force, that is the Chief of the Air Staff. This officer can fly the ensign on his car and at his residence and it is suggested that the Senior Combatant Officer of the RIAF should like-wise be so permitted. Again, if the RIAF ensign is flown by the Officer Commanding the RIAF, then it should be flown in conjunction with the Indian National Flag.

In the RAF officers Commanding formations are entitled to fly at their units or on their cars the Air Force flag which denotes their rank. It is suggested that this procedure should be followed in the RIAF.

3. S/Ldr. Basant Singh of this Headquarters will represent the A.M.C., RIAF at the meeting on 14th November, 1947.

S.S. Puri Esq.,
Assistant Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Ministry of Defence.

Air Commodore,
AIR OFFICER i/c ADMINISTRATION.

AHQ(I)/6527/PS1, dated 14th November, 1947.

Copy of note by A.H.Q. representative S/L Basant Singh while me

A/Rahman
16.1.48

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(36)

NAVAL HEADQUARTERS.
(PLANS & INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE)

Herewith enclosed is a copy of a draft note which has been forwarded to the Ministry of Defence for transmission to the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the adaptation of National Flag for use by various departments of the Government of India, for your advance information.

A.K. Chatterji

(A.K. CHATTERJI)
LIEUT-COMMANDER, R.I.N.
Director of Naval Plans & Intelligence.
(Tele.2665)
Room 189/S
19-1-48.

Ministry of Home Affairs,
(Mr.R.A.Gopalswamy).

NHQ U.O.No. PL/1015/2 dated 19-1-1948.

16 2 South Block

Read from JS
at
22/1/48

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Any further communication
should be addressed to -
The Secretary of the Admiralty,
London, S.W.1.
quoting No. N.L. 12640/47

Admiralty, S.W.1.

24th December, 1947.

Flag Officer Commanding Royal Indian Navy.

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward, with reference to the signal from Naval Headquarters (India) 181007/December and 011216/September, the following extract from a letter dated the 17th December, 1947, which has been received from the Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa giving information on the subject of Ensigns and Jacks worn by Warships and Merchant Ships of the Dominion of South Africa.

".....all vessels of the South African Naval Force wear at the stern the White Ensign of the Union of South Africa. This Ensign consists of a plain white flag with the National flag in the Upper dexter canton.

As regards the Merchant Navy, there is no Merchant Navy Ensign in existence at present, but the new Merchant Shipping Bill which will, in all probability, be considered by Parliament during the 1948 Session provides for an ensign to be flownnon all Merchant Ships registered under the Union Act. This ensign will be a plain red flag with the National flag in the upper dexter canton."

2. It has also been ascertained that vessels of the South African Naval Force wear the National Flag of the Union of South Africa at the Jack staff.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Sd/-.....

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(38)

D R A F T.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

A meeting on the adaptation of the National Flag for the use of various departments of the Government of India was held on the 16th January 1948. Since that meeting a communication has been received from the Admiralty No. NL-12640/47 dated 24th December 1947, addressed to the Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy, which describes the flags now in use by the Warships of the Union of South Africa and also the flags they may use for their mercantile marine. A copy of this letter is herewith enclosed.

2. The flags detailed therein are different from those in use until recently, and hence the facts stated by the naval representative at the meeting, which was based on information available in this department at the time, was not correct.

3. In view of this, Naval Headquarters would like to reconsider the views expressed at the meeting by the naval representative in respect of flags to be used by warships, government vessels and merchant vessels.

Secretary,
Ministry of Defence.

Ministry of Home Affairs,
(Mr. R.A. Gopalswamy)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(39)

Ministry of Defence.

Reference correspondence ending with Ministry of Home Affairs' O.M.No.F.87/2/47-Public(B), dated the 6th January 1948, on the subject of National Flag.

2. Since the meeting which was held on the 16th January 1948 a communication has been received from the Admiralty which describes the flags now in use by the Warships of the Union of South Africa and also the flags being used for their mercantile marine. The flags detailed therein are different from those in use until recently and hence the facts stated by the Naval representative at the meeting, which was based on information available in Naval Headquarters at the time, were not correct. In view of this, Naval Headquarters would like to reconsider the views expressed at the meeting by the Naval representative in respect of flags to be used by warships, Government vessels and merchant vessels.

for Deputy Secretary.
20.1.48

Ministry of Home Affairs.
(Mr.R.A.Gopalaswamy)

M of D No 376/0/Coord
dt 20/1/48

Recd from JS
ans
27/1/48

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Ministry of Home Affairs.

(40)

The draft proceedings of the flag meeting held on the 16th January 1948 was put up to J.S., but was returned by him to me as he had no time to deal with the case. I have since discussed the draft principally with the Representatives of the Commerce Ministry and Naval Headquarters, who attended the meeting, especially in view of the note by the Defence Ministry dated 20.1.48 on the example of the South African national flag referred to in the Proceedings of the meeting. The former made some formal amendments but the latter made some material changes, mainly factual in the original draft. A revised draft (omitting item (b) of para 12 also) of the Proceedings is put up for Secretary's approval. The Proceedings may be circulated to all concerned for comments with a covering memo as in the draft put up.

d.f.a II

d.f.a I

2. The representative of the Naval Headquarters stated in his discussion with me that the Government of India have in view the formation of Naval Auxiliaries for which suitable flags on the U.K. model may have to be prescribed. He also remarked as regards para 10 of the draft Proceedings that the Heads of States in many countries he has read of do not fly the national flag but their individual distinctive flags, may be an adaptation of the national flag in some cases; and he requested that this point may be borne in mind while issuing administrative instructions from this Ministry on this paragraph.

3. After issue of the draft proceedings, I shall put up the file with necessary drafts of instructions which have to issue immediately concerning the use of flags, on the lines of paras 5, 6, 10 & 14. of the draft proceedings.

A slip "O"

(A copy of notes, agenda furnished to Secretary for the meeting is placed below as also a book 'Flags of the World' by Gordon)

A V Raman
7.2.48

(A.V. Raman)
Assistant Secretary,

Secretary

To circulate draft proceedings 2 6 days after the meeting is held inviting views & final action

41

Draw out fair copy for me to
& collect cases for
Scrutiny this forenoon. A.S.Y. please
then as they are under
& then discuss this with me in a day
or two.

AJ(c) 11/2

Please issue at once and send file to
me.

AV Raman
11/2/48

S. NO. 28 Issue

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(42)

Ministry of Home Affairs.

Copy from Ministry of E.A. and C.R.'s file No.10(44)-Pt./47

Subject: Enquiry from the Indian Seamen's Welfare Officer in the U.S.A. whether he should issue any instructions to the American Shipping Companies regarding the flying of the flags of India or Pakistan.

Ref: corr. on page 66-68

The Indian Seamen's Welfare Officer in the U.S.A. has stated that when any foreign ship enters into another country she flies the flag of that country, in addition to that of her own country, as a matter of courtesy. The American ships hitherto used to fly the British flags, in addition to their own, while entering into IndianPorts. The Welfare Officer has now enquired whether he should issue any instructions to the American Shipping Companies to that effect.

2. This appears to be the concern of the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, who may kindly see and state whether the necessary action has since been taken by them and if not what reply should be sent to the correspondence under consideration.

Itd.
28.8.47.

Sd. Srivastava.
28.8.47.

Ministry of E.A. and C.R.
Ministry of Commerce u/o No.36-MII(2)/47, dated the 29th Aug.47.

Ministry of E.A. and C.R.

It would seem desirable that the American Ships while entering Indian Ports should now fly the Indian National Flag in addition to their own. We may however refer the matter to the Ministry of Home Affairs for their advice as they are concerned with this matter.
ITD.
6/9/47.

We should in the first instance ascertain what precisely is the procedure followed in U.S.A. and the U.K. As we do not seem to have any relevant information on the subject, the express letters herewith may issue. (No need to trouble the Ministry of Home Affairs yet as I have ascertained that they have no information on the point raised.)

Sd. T.J. Natrajan.
A.S.(PT).6/X/47.

Cor.
Ref: corr. on page 69

Please see corr. on pages 66-69

For information only at present. A reply from the Indian Embassy at Washington to our Communication at page. 2 /cor may be awaited. A draft reminder is submitted. Meanwhile Ministry of Commerce may see and kindly remove their file placed below.
Itd.
21/1/48.

A1

Before issue, Ministry of Commerce may see with reference to the file sent to them on 21.1.48 through the Home Ministry in case the printed pamphlet on it contains the information that we are awaiting from Washington.

Sd. T.J. Natarajan.
22.1.48.

Ministry of H.A.
Ministry of Commerce.
Ministry of E.A.&C.R.u/o No.D.216-Pt/48,dated 22.1.48.

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(43)

Ministry of Home Affairs.

Ref: Ministry of E.A. and C.R.'s u/o note on prepage.

The question regarding framing of Rules for flying Indian National Flag is under consideration of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Necessary extracts from this file have been retained. It is requested that a reply from the Indian Embassy, Washington, when received, may also be shown to this Ministry. The file referred to at "A" on prepage has not been received here.

RDS.
3/2/48
BMS.
3/2/48.

Please place the copy on the "Flag" file.

Sd. A.V. Raman.
8.2.48.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(44)

Ministry of Home Affairs.
Public.

S. NOS. 29-30

Subject: Rules regarding hoisting of National Flag.

The main file on the above subject is already with A.S.(Pb) who may kindly see the F.Rs for information.

RK
3/2/48
5-2-48

This should be kept on the main file. It will be required for issue of administrative instructions immediately re: flags.

A.V. Raman
8/2/48

B3(Pb)

Public

S. No. 31 Receipt
S. No. 32 Issue

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

45

USES AND ABUSES OF OUR NATIONAL FLAG

Now that the first flush of Independence Day celebrations is over it was time that the authorities concerned issued some definite directives and instructions with regard to the proper uses of the National Flag.

It must have been observed that during the last two weeks, particularly since the 14th and 15th of August, every important advertisement in any newspaper of any significance has been illustrated with some National Symbol — either the Flag or the Chakra and in some cases by the symbol of the Seal of the State, which has yet to be finalized. This, I respectfully state is not quite desirable. Everywhere in every country there are set rules and regulations for the appropriate use of the Flag.

Before the market is flooded with "Tri-Colour" brand cigarettes, cigars and perhaps chewing gum and whiskies the Government should issue necessary directives laying down definite rules and regulations to safeguard against any misuse of the Nations' most cherished and honoured Symbol. In the United States of America, for example, the Government have made certain rules prohibiting the use of their National Flag in any form whatsoever for advertising purposes. They have even gone to the length that they would not allow any advertisement sign to be fastened to the staff from which the Flag is flown. Only during the war years there was some relaxation of these rules when some of the leading manufacturers were allowed to decorate the advertisements by means of a National Flag or some similar sign but this was done only in those cases when the firms concerned had rendered certain merritorious services to the Nation or to the Armed Forces.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(46)

Another important factor to be taken into consideration, apart from the commercial exploitation and misuse of the Flag is the flying of the Flag over ~~the~~ private cars and vehicles. I am personally not fully conversant with the rules and regulations governing this ~~but~~ in other countries but now that the "Tri-Colour" has become the National Flag of the State every Tom, Dick and Harry should not be allowed to fly it on his car or his bicycle. This distinction is, I believe, exclusively reserved ~~for~~ the Head of the State, the Ministers and other Provincial Ministers and dignitories etc.

Issuing of detailed rules and regulations in this connection will ultimately come under the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs, but I think initial move in this respect should be made by the Head of the Supreme authority of the country, i.e. the Constituent Assembly. I therefore respectfully submit the above to Hon'ble the President for any action that he may consider necessary and proper.

Dharam Yash Dev

(DHARAM YASH DEV)
2/9/1947.

H.P.

We should take up the matter with the Home Department and ask rules to be laid down for use of the Flag & State national symbols. The matter has also to be studied in reference to the practice in other countries. Perhaps the External affairs ~~Department~~ ministry will also be able to help in framing the Government policy.

3/9/47

(47)

This may now be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Chakradhar Sharma
3/9

PRESIDENT, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
Recd. on 3 SEP 1947
No. 3052/47.

U.S. may please see & do the needful.

Y/Sa
3.9.47

U.S. M
3/9

D. 3158/47 Pub(B)
12—9—47

Ministry of Home Affairs

Ministry of External Affairs &c.

No. no CA/48-Pub/47. D. 5-9-47

Ministry of Home Affairs.

We are collecting information, as regards old pils ch as far as may be available, prescribing any rules for the flying of national flags.

We should be grateful if the Ministry of E.A and C.R. (E.A. Wing) could get us from some ~~foot~~ foreign embassies e.g. Canada, U.K and Australia as to what rules have been prescribed for the use of their national flags, who should fly them always etc. The Foreign Govt representatives may be requested to send to this Ministry direct any rules they may have with respect to their Govts.

D. 4456-G/47

We may then be able to formulate some regulations in the matter. This may be treated as priority.

A V Raman
17.9.47

Ministry of E.A. & C.R (Rai Sahib T.J. Natarajan)

Ministry of Home Affairs U/O No. D. 3158/47—Pub(B) dt. 18—9—47

(48)

MINISTRY OF E. A. AND C. R. (INDIA).
(E.A.WING).

Ref. Corr. on. pages 80-81

(Postage) Dy.No.4456-G/47.

Reference notes on prepage.

The Ministry of Home Affairs have asked us to obtain from some of the foreign embassies rules regarding the proper use of the national flags, etc., in their governments. The correct method of approach to the foreign governments is through our and British representatives accredited to them - c.f. linked file No.36(4)-G/47, p.2/notes. A draft to ~~some of~~ the Indian at Washington Moscow and Nanking Embassies is submitted for approval.

Removed.

2. With regard to obtaining information from Canada, U. K. and Australia as mentioned in notes on prepage, C.R.Wing may see and be asked kindly to take necessary action after issue of the draft.

Lek
22.9.47.

1/
3/10/47.

G.S.(C) may please see before mine.
Rajagopalan.
3/10/47.

A.S(G)

~~J.S(G)~~

R. A. Sarma
3.10.47

A.S(E)
3/10

G
3/10

Copy at slip J'

The letter has issued and these papers may be passed on to C. R. Wing vide para. 2 above. They may be asked to return these papers to the Ministry of Home Affairs after action has been taken by them.

(Copies of note to be kept for ~~ministry~~ file)

Lek
13.x.47.

2592/47-OS III

OS III
13/X

1/
10/10/47
C.R. Wing.

P. S. V. 3A.

24/10/47 A(II. Spk.) 12/X/47

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(49)

From pre-page:- (Ministry of External Affairs & Commonwealth Relations (C.R.Wing).

Reference E.A. Wing note at para 2 on pre-page:-

Draft letter to our High Commissioners in Canada, U.K. and Australia is put up for approval. (It does not seem necessary to address the Representatives of this Govt in Burma, Ceylon & Malaya).

21.X.47

21/X/47

Pemahe
21.10.47

+ cf/Serial marked 'x' of 20th on pre-page

Dy.(O).

Genl. Sec. may see Home M. with ref. this file as. flags transferred within Secretariat.

31/X/47

Genl. Sec.

Hr/P
31/X/47

seen in Genl. Section. O.S.3 will no doubt keep a copy of the file before passing it on to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

4.XI.47

Hr. P

Pl. discuss with Supdt of Pol

discussed 5/XI/47

4/11/47

A/Supdt

S/H

Supdt.

The file is be returned without note on the Home Ministry's comments dtd. 4th Nov. 47 recd. from E. Hqrs.

bill 7/11

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(50)

D. 4911-G/47

No.87/2/47-Public(B)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

New Delhi 3, the 9th October, 1947.

UNOFFICIAL OFFICE MEMORANDUM

National Flags - Regulations for use.

* * * *

Will you please refer to this Ministry's u.o. reference No.D.3158/47-Pub(B) dated the 18th September 1947 and let us know when your reply thereto may be expected.

B.M. Sharma,

(B.M. Sharma)
for Assistant Secretary to the Government of India

13/10/47

4456-G/47

To

The Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.

Ministry of E.A. + C.R.
(E.A. Wing)

The Indian Embassies at Washington, Moscow and Nanking have been addressed and the Ministry of Home Affairs' papers sent to C.R. wing to take further action. C.R. wing may see and be asked kindly to expedite return of the papers to the Ministry of Home Affairs ASAP.

17/10/47

C.R. Wing

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(51)

From pre-page:- Ministry of External Affairs & Commonwealth Relations.(C.R.Wing).

The letter has been issued to our High Commissioners in Australia, Canada and U.K. for obtaining rules regarding the proper use of National Flags etc. The file may now be returned to the Ministry of Home Affairs as desired in the E.A. Wing note on pre-page.

Dy No. 4370/47-pub(B)
19-11-47

Ministry of Home Affairs.

U/o No D. 2592/47-O3 IV Dt-10/11/47

(Ministry of Home Affairs)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(52)

Extracts from the Transport Ministry's file regarding the flying of flags on Port Trust vessels and buildings.

x x x x x x x

The case relates to the designing of flags of major ports. In August 1947 we issued instructions to all major ports to fly the National flag on port building. The Commerce Ministry also issued instructions at that time that Merchant Ships registered in India should continue to fly the Red Ensign and in addition fly the Indian Flag at the fore-mast. Apart from these arrangements the major port authorities were consulted for suggestions as regards the flags which should be flown by them. Their replies are summarised in the office note above. Briefly the Calcutta and Bombay Port authorities are not in favour of any change being made in the flags being flown by them. Madras suggests that the National flag with an appropriate devise common to all ports or which may indicate the link between the major port and the province concerned should be shown in the ~~flag~~ fly of the flag. Cochin Port has suggested a flag which is the National flag ~~is~~ with an anchor in the fly to replace the blue Ensign on the Port's floating craft.

2. We are not aware of the practice in this respect of the other countries but prima facie the suggestion of the Madras Port Trust for a flag common to all ports is suitable. x x x x It is however not necessary to link it with the province as the major ports are under the administrative control of the Central Government. The Ministry of Commerce may kindly see the replies received and favour us with their furtner advice in the matter.

Tojan Lal, 25.11.47.
Hakmut Rai, 29.11.47.

Ministry of Commerce.

We are concerned with the question of designing a flag for merchant ships as distinct from ships owned by Government or semi-Government bodies. This question is still under consideration and we have not come to any decision in the matter.

2. Sometime back the Ministry of Home Affairs took up the general

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

general question and invited the Ministries to nominate a representative each on a Committee proposed to be set up to go into the matter. So far as we are aware the date and venue of the meeting of the Committee have not yet been settled. The idea of forming such a committee was to consider whether the action on the part of the several Ministries could be co-ordinated. We may advise the Ministry of Transport to consult the Ministry of Home Affairs in the matter.

A.R. Subramanian, 10.12.47.

Ministry of Home Affairs.

Seen in the Ministry of Home Affairs and returned with thanks. The whole question is still under consideration. We are still awaiting certain information in this respect called from abroad. In the absence of this information the proposed meeting could not be held so far and has been postponed for the present. It is likely to be held in January 1948. We shall include the Transport Ministry also.

A.V. Raman, 20.12.47.

Ministry of Transport.

Ministry of Home Affairs u/o. No. D.4808/47-Pub. (B) dated 22/12/47.

S. No. 33 Issue

S. No. 34 Receipt
S. No. 35 Issue
S. Nos. 36-37 Receipts.
S. No. 38 Issue
S. No. 39 - Receipt

Other replies should be awaited

A V Raman
16.2.48

Serial 40 - Issue

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

54

An Editorial
in National Herald
Lucknow
19.2.48

Subject:
Advertising
The National
Flag

ON ADVERTISING

We referred in these columns some time ago to the danger to the dignity of the National Flag. The tricolour is no longer the flag of a party or even of a movement; it is the flag of a nation, the symbol of its sovereignty. The sight of a soiled flag at a pan shop, on a rickshaw or an ekka, however, is hardly one that can inspire respect. We wonder whether the government of any other country allows private manufacturers to use a representation of the country's flag on wrappers for their products as if it were their trade mark, or the advertisers to appeal to the readers' patriotic sentiments by a display of their cheap wares under the colours of the national emblem. Such a practice is not likely to stop unless it is made a punishable offence. This, however, is nothing compared with the way advertisers have seized upon the martyrdom of Bapu as a new subject which they can exploit, a temptation to which even the Government have succumbed. Deification of Gandhiji is not so bad as vulgarization of his teachings. It is all very well for the Government and the Congress to distribute posters with Gandhiji's pictures exhorting the people not to forget his teachings, but to make the familiar revered face appear in advertisement columns of newspapers is to surround him not with the halo of a saint but with the spirit of the market place.

With the compliments
of
Dharam Yash Dev

Where we are asked
to comment, NB
Attd

To
R. N. Banerji Esq
Secy. Ministry of Home Affairs
Govt of India
New Delhi

for information
Please see notes top. info
Dr Ramaswa

Ministry of Home Affairs.

(Please see p. 54 note ante)

Secretary desired that a summary should be put up to him regarding action to be taken on 'National Flags'. The problem, he said, should be split up into two parts, namely,

(a) The adaptation of the national flag for the use of

(i) Civilian officials including High rankers like the Governor General, Governors, Prime Minister of India, Premiers of Provinces, etc.

(ii) the army, navy and air force;

(iii) the merchant shipping;

(iv) Acceding States of the Indian Dominion;

(v) Embassies, the Consulates and other Diplomatic offices abroad;

and

(b) The issue of orders

(i) authorising the flying of flags on buildings and residencies and on the bonnet of the motor cars of certain officials;

(ii) defining occasions on which flags could be flown by all, including public buildings other than those under (i) above;

(iii) restricting the free use of the national flag by the public; and

(iv) the prevention of use of the national flag in advertisements and as trade marks

2. The conclusions reached at the meeting of the Ministerial representatives held on the 16th January 1948, on (a) and (b) of para 1 were as follows :-

(a) (i) The Governor General (or the President of the Indian Union under the new Constitution) and Governors only may have a flag distinct from the national flag or adaptations thereof. It may be added for information that the Heads of States in various countries e.g.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(56)

e.g. U.K. (Royal Standard) and U.S.A. (President's flag), have flags distinct from the national flag. We may adopt the same principle if it is sought to follow the example of the U.K. Other officials can fly the national flag, or if it is administratively desired, have a separately designed flag.

(α)(ii) The Naval Headquarters suggested that, for services reasons and continuity of associations so long as India remained a Dominion, we may preferably retain the White Ensign suitably defaced by the National Flag of India; but we can also break off from Dominion practice on the model of South Africa.

The Armed Forces Headquarters - It was agreed that no adaptation of the national flag for use of the Commander-in-Chief was necessary. (This at present is the Union Jack). The flag in use by the Staff officers at present could be designed with a suitable super-imposition of the Asoka's Wheel and Cross-swords thereon. The Staff officers could use a different design.

Air Headquarters - are to continue the present design viz. the light blue ensign of the R.A.F. with the star of India superimposed upon it (five star points around a Roundel consisting of three concentric circles of black (outer), of white (middle) and of red (inner)). The Defence Minister had decided in August 1947 that they should continue to use this design so long as India remains a Dominion.

Formal concurrence of Armed Forces, Naval & Air Hdqrs are awaited from Defence Ministry who want a little time.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(57)

(a)(iii) Commerce Ministry are of the view that for the sake of convenience we may keep the present Dominion practice i.e. use the Red Ensign defaced by the National Flag of India. They have, however, brought to notice that several owners of merchant ships would prefer breaking off from the Dominion practice on the South African model. Formal concurrence of the Ministry is awaited.

(a)(iv) No action is needed.

(a)(v) The E.A. & C.R. Ministry have decided that national flags of India should be flown at Embassies etc. without any modification thereof.

(b)(i)&(ii) It was decided that existing orders should be modified as suggested at the meeting. The existing list has been revised accordingly and is appended (~~Annexure I~~). The sizes of the flags to be flown has been suggested on the basis of existing practice and is for approval.

d.f.a I

(b)(iii) It was agreed that this cannot be prevented by legislation, but by proper education by propaganda and publicity as to the sanctity of the national flag of India. The copy of a Communique issued by the Bombay Government (Annexure II) is commended for issue as a Press Communique suitably modified in the draft ~~Annexure~~ II.

d.f.a II

(b)(iv) Attention may be drawn by a Press Communique to the provisions of sub-section (b) of Section 69 of the Trade Marks Act 1940 (IV of 1940) warning the public that an infringement thereof shall render one liable to action in a Court of Law. A draft communique is suggested (Draft Annexure III). This covers uses both in advertisement and as Trade Marks.

d.f.a III

3...

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

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2. ~~If the above proposals are approved, a summary for~~ ~~Cabinet will be prepared.~~

3. It was also decided that National flags be prepared and stocked at Ordnance Depots as at present and supplied to all civilians on payment. Also, all administrative details as to sizes of flags etc should be worked out by Ministries Concerned.

(A.V. Raman)
Assistant Secretary,
21/2/48.

23

Secretary

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(59)

Please see notes at pages 15 and 21 of file.. This case relates to the issue of fresh instructions for the use of flags. There are two general problems -

(1) Adaptation of the flag for the use of Civil Officials, Army, Navy and Air Force, Merchant Shipping, Acceding States and Embassies and other representatives abroad; and

(2) who should fly flags, where, and on what occasions.

2. In spite of inter-Departmental discussions and meetings (1) above is not yet ready for a final decision. (2) need not be kept pending for that decision. Instructions can now issue prescribing the premises and occasions on which, and the officials by whom, the flag should be flown. These instructions need only be a modification of the Instructions in force about the flying of the Union Jack before the 15th August. The proposals in the statement below are for approval. I do not think that this need go to Cabinet but H.M. may like to mention it at ~~the~~ meeting of ~~the~~ Cabinet.

3. One important question is what action should be taken to discourage, if not stop, the use of the National Flag indiscriminately by the public generally. I think it will be unusual to enact legislation restricting the privilege of flying the flag only to certain officials and official premises. There was no such legislation in the country before the 15th August. A press communique may be issued drawing attention to the recognized convention that the flag ought ordinarily to be used by certain privileged public servants and not indiscriminately by all members of the public. My feeling is that as soon as that position is generally known the present practice of the indiscriminate use by members of the public would gradually disappear. ~~gradually~~.

On ceremonial occasions, e.g. the

celebration

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(60)

elebration of the Independence Day, flags will of course
e used by members of the public as is done in other
untries.

After a final decision is taken a press
mmunique would be drafted.

H.M. 25-2-48
(R.N.BANERJEE)

H.M. would like a note prepared for the Cabinet explaining what hitherto when there was a combination of the Union Jack and when the flag itself was part of the struggle for freedom ~~but~~ as it was necessary, in order that popular enthusiasm for the flag should grow, to maintain and even encourage the popular desire to use the flag as widely as possible. But now that the objective of freedom has been achieved, it is now necessary to control the use of flag in order not to lower its dignity and prestige. Unless, meanwhile, the Cabinet considers that some more time should be given for popular enthusiasm to use the flag to cool down, it is suggested that the use of the flag should be restricted as ~~suggested~~ proposed, with a slight modification. The views of the Commonwealth might be ascertained after the Cabinet decision.

29.2.48
PS.

Secy
Early
25/2/48

A draft memorandum to cabinet is put up.
(I am sorry I could not put this up earlier owing to pressure of more important & immediate work)
A.D. January
11.3.48
Secretary

Ans 1.3.48

National flag
8.1.46
Mr. RDS 14/1
OS(AB) 14/1

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(61)

File No. 87/2/47 Pub. (B),

Collection No.

1947.

Ministry of Home Affairs

Pros. Serial Nos.

Correspondence.

Subject.

National Flag.

Previous References.	Later References.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. 97 (Unbleached).
MGIPC—S2—688 (S&P) MFP—(6862/A/M-653)—3-12-46—25,00 000.

S. No. 1

(12)

PRIORITY.

No.87/2/47-Pub(B)
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs.

New Delhi, the 19th September 1947.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

Subject:- National flag - Regulations for use.

This Ministry desire to formulate regulations to restrict the use of national flags and other national symbols, and thus prevent their abuse. In order to have a background for the same, they should like to know what rules have been in use so far as the Union Jack etc. is concerned. Defence Ministry have been in control of this item and we should be grateful to be furnished with such information as the Defence Ministry may have in the matter. This may kindly be treated as priority.

(A. V. Raman)
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

The Ministry of Defence.

YG/18/9/47.

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(63)

S. No. 2

PRIORITY.

No.87/2/47-Pub(B)
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs.

New Delhi, the 18th September 1947.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

Subject:- National flag - Regulation for use.

This Ministry desire to formulate rules to restrict the use of national flags and other national symbols and thus prevent their abuse. It is understood that the Ministry of Commerce have been considering the question of use of flags on shipping. This Ministry would be grateful if the file of the Commerce Ministry on the subject could be shown to us. This may kindly be treated as 'priority'.

(A. V. Raman)
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

The Ministry of Commerce.

YG/18/9/47.

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S. No. 3

(64) (3)

No. 9528-A-II.
Political and Services Department,
Bombay Castle, 2nd September 1947.

From

Sir Ivon Taunton, CIE., ICS.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Political and Services Department.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Home Department.

D. 3163/47

Subject:- Flying of Flags.

Sir,

I am directed to state that under the existing orders flags are flown on all Government buildings in this Province on the following days :-

January 1st	.....	New Year's Day.
April 21st	.....	Birthday of Princess Elizabeth.
May 24th	.....	Empire Day.
May 26th	.....	Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Mary.
August 4th	.....	Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen.
November 11th	.....	Armistice Day.
December 11th	.....	Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession.
* December 14th	.....	His Majesty's Birthday.

*Also any day appointed for the official celebration of His Majesty's Birthday.

2. .....

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(4) (65)

2. Consequent on the transfer of power by His Majesty's Government to the Dominion of India, it would seem to be necessary to change the 'Days' fixed at present for the flying of flags on Government buildings. I am accordingly to request that the instructions of the Government of India in the matter may kindly be communicated at an early date.

Your obedient servant,

For Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Political and Services Department.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Mam/19

From
K.V.Appunni Menon, Pensioner, (Royal Indi.Engineers) Ottapalam, S.Malabar

To
Sri. J.Nehru, Premier, Govmt. of India, New Delhi.
(THROUGH DEFENCE DEPARTMENT)

Sir,

OUR NATIONAL FLAG.

I am quite sure that you are well aware of the importance of above. It is the very cynosure of all our hopes and aspirations, honour and self respect. It's honour is our life; it's dishonour and downfall, our calamity & hell. It symbolises the very heart of a Nation and has to be handled with greatest care and consideration, and attention. Above all, our National Flag is just born only and is as tender and delicate as a new born babe and needs all the care and attention which a baby needs; and without any exaggeration, I may say, that this "Pathak" is the very heart of that babe in which the life of the nation throbs. How much more careful should we be in handling it ?

I am afraid, our people's unde enthusiasm may injure that bab and hence ought to be checked slowly but firmly. The use of the National flag must be restricted and misuse prevented; the time place and circ-cumstances fixed up and full directive to that effect issued from the centre. I would even suggest to give a specila course ~~may be given~~ to the police who may be called upon to regulate its use by the public.

Of one thing I am quite sure; it cannot be used by all and sundry -- a Gharryvalla or Rakshapuller for the simple reason that he cannot defend its honour. National Flag is to be guarded xxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxx and defended as the very Empire of a Nation and cannot be taken out or carried unarmed and unprotected -- and that is the reason why the National Flag of a Nation is in the keeping of the Armed Forces.

I quite agree "that the past clings on to us" still .... As we were mere slaves for, generations and not a Nation, most people are dangerously ignorant of the importance, magnifiscence and Glory of the National Flag. I trust this matter will receive your due con-sideration and attention it deserves.

Ottapalam,
24/8/47.

Yours faithfully,
K.V.A. Menon
24/8/47

sd/- K.V.Appunni Menon,

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

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6/

D.3218/47 PubB,
16-9-47

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT NEW DELHI SEP 1947

Defence Department (D.O.) / India.

Passed to Ministry of Home Affairs, who presumably are concerned in the matter.

L. C. Mitchell
5/9.

9/9

Ministry of Home Affairs

(Sd) B
Revision 4009-6/M6

16/9

16/9

Govt. Cir. F. D., No. 5434, dated 4-9-19.]

EXPRESS LETTER

Gen. 156 s.
G.P.Z.P.-80,000-5-4-1946.

[N.B.—This is an ORIGINAL MESSAGE, sent by post to save telegraphic expense and undue use of the wires, but intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same expedition as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and formalities it is worded and signed as if it had been so despatched.

From Restis, Bombay.

To Secretary to the Government of India,
Home Department.

No. 9528-A-II Bombay Castle Dated 16-9-47

With reference to your letter / telegram No. _____ dated _____.

Subject:- Flying of flags.

Reference this department letter No. 9528-A-II dated the 2nd

(69)

September 1947, on the above subject.

2. The favour of a very urgent reply from the Government of India is requested.

For Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Political and Services Department.

MWM
159

(Signed)

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DEPARTMENT/OFFICE.

Ministry of Home Affairs

File No.

Serial No. (6)

Letter
Draft Memorandum
Telegram

No. 87/2/47 Pub (B). Dated 24.9.47

IMMEDIATE

1. Date of despatch.
2. List of enclosures.

5689
11.15 pm.

Papers
24/9

Issued
24/9/47
J.R.

To The Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Bombay
Political and Services Deptt.

Subject:- Flying of Flags.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 9528-A-II, dated the 2nd September 1947 and subsequent reminder of the same number, dated the 16th September 1947, on the subject mentioned above,

I am directed to say that the matter of flying flags etc. in Indian States is under consideration of the Govt. of India and it will take some time to come to a final decision.

~~Yours~~ I have etc.

ad
A.S. (C)

P.7/w

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT/OFFICE. Ministry of Home Affairs

File No. 70-A (70)

Serial No. (7)

Issue advice 29.9.47 IMMEDIATE

Letter
Draft ~~Memorandum~~
Ex! Telegram

No. 7-87/2/47-Pub(B) Dated 29.9.47

Restes
Bombay.

1. Date of despatch.
2. List of enclosures.

6002/4-0pm. Issued. B/29/9/47 P S/Ln

Continuation this Ministry ~~Dept~~. letter even number, dated 24th September stop Flying of National Flags stop ~~No objection~~ Bombay ~~---~~ Govt. can fly National Flag on the occassion of Mahatama Gandhes Birthday.

Homexd.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No(B)

CHIEF COMMISSIONER DELHI

(71)

No.F.1(17)/47-Home Delhi the 4 October, 1947

D.3709/47-PubB 7-10-47

From:- Rai Bahadur J.P.Ray, M.A.,
Home Secretary,
to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

To:- The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
N E W D E L H I.

Subject:- Flying of National Flag at Irwin Stadium Building.

Sir,

I am directed to forward for information of the Government of India a copy of a letter No.PW/5-G dated 3rd. September, 1947 on the above subject for such action as the Government of India may deem necessary.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(J.P.RAY)
Home Secretary
to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

AS(C) Public(B) 6/10

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(72) 72

Copy of letter No.PW/5-G dated New Delhi the 3rd. Sept., 1947 from the Superintending Engineer, Delhi Province, New Delhi to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

Subject:- Flying of National Flag at Irwin Stadium Bldg.,

I have the honour to forward, herewith, a copy of letter No.8597 dated the 19th August, 1947 together with the enclosure in original from the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, New Delhi for favour of such action as is deemed necessary.

Copy of letter No.8597, dated the 19th August, 1947 from Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, New Delhi to the Superintending Engineer Delhi Province, New Delhi.

Subject:- Flying of National Flag at Irwin Stadium Bldg.

The Irwin Stadium Building is under charge of this Division, As per orders of Government of India two Indian National Flags were hoisted on two Flag Masts in the Irwin Stadium ~~xxxxxx~~ on 15.8.47 morning. A part of the grounds attached to Irwin Stadium is used as Military Camp and Officer Commanding of the Camp removed these flags. A letter to this effect received from the officer Commanding is enclosed. The building is under the charge of this office and the action of the Officer Commanding in removing the National Flags does not seem to be in order. If t necessary the matter may be persued further.

Copy of letter from Officer Commanding GHQ Troops, Irwin Stadium Camp, New Delhi to the Superintending Engineer Delhi Province, New Delhi.

Subject:- Flying of National Flag.

Acting under instructions that there will be no flag flying in this a Military Camp I have given instructions for the flags flying on the Stadium Building which is in my camp shall be removed.

The flags have been removed by my R.P.S.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(73)

CHIEF COMMISSIONER DELHI

F.1(17)/47-Home Delhi the 11 October, 1947

From:- Rai Bahadur J.P.Ray, M.A.,
Home Secretary,
to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

To:- The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
N E W D E L H I.

Subject:- Flying of National Flag at Irwin Stadium Building.

Sir,

I am directed to forward for information of the Government of India a copy of a letter No.PW/5-G dated 3rd. September, 1947 on the above subject for such action as the Government of India may deem necessary.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(J.P.RAY)
Home Secretary
to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(74)

Copy of letter No.PW/5-G dated New Delhi the 3rd. Sept., 1947 from the Superintending Engineer, Delhi Province, New Delhi to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

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Copy of letter from Officer Commanding GHQ Troops, Irwin Stadium Camp, New Delhi to the Superintending Engineer Delhi Province, New Delhi.

Subject:- Flying of National Flag.

Acting under instructions that there will be no flag flying in this a Military Camp I have given instructions for the flags flying on the Stadium Building which is in my camp shall be removed.

The flags have been removed by my R.P.S.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No.9.

(75)

No.87/2/47-Public (B).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS,
New Delhi 3, the 16th October, 1947.

17/X

M E M O R A N D U M.

Subject:- Removal of Flag - Irwin Stadium.

A copy of letter No.F.1(17)/47-Home, dated the 4th October 1947 from the Chief Commissioner, Delhi together with its enclosures is enclosed. The Ministry of Home Affairs would be grateful if the Defence Ministry kindly enquire into the circumstances in which the flag in the Irwin Stadium was pulled down and whether the statement of the Officer Commanding G.H.Q. Troops, namely, that no flag was to be flown in that camp, is correct. An early compliance is requested.

(A.V.RAMAN),
Assistant Secretary to the Govt. of India.

To

The Ministry of Defence,
NEW DELHI.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

AB(6)/Public A./15/-

S.no.10

(76) ~~46~~

No.5470/23529-C,
Health and Local Government Department,
Bombay Castle, 7th October 1947.

From

The Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Health and Local Government Department.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Home Department,
New Delhi.

MINISTRY OF STATES
File No.
Date
Diary No. 3838/47

Pub.(B). Sec.
16.10.47

Sir,

I am directed to enquire whether as a result of the declaration of India as a Dominion, any change in the design of the Coat of Arms used on Government publications is contemplated. If the new design is not yet available, please state whether the existing Royal Arms should continue to be used or Government Publications should be printed without any Coat of Arms until the new design is ready.

Your obedient servant,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Health and Local Government Department.

AFM/7-10.

8/10/47

I propose to reply as in the draft. D.S(G) ~~[illegible]~~ agrees. Issue draft
A V Raman
16.10.47

~~D.S(G)~~

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S.no. 11 (77) (18)

Secret
Annual
17/10
S.I.(A.)

No.87/2/47-Public (B).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS,
New Delhi 3, the 16th October, 1947.

17

From

A.V.Raman, Esquire, M.A.,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Health and Local Self Government Department,
BOMBAY.

Subject:- Coat of Arms.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.5470/23529-C, dated the 7th October 1947 on the above subject, I am directed to say that the Coat of Arms to be used by the Indian Dominion is under consideration by the Constituent Assembly. It will take some time before designs are finalised. I am therefore to suggest that, until a decision is reached in the matter, the Bombay Government may continue to use the existing Royal Coat of Arms.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(A.V.Raman),
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No.12

(78)

IMMEDIATE.

No:87/2/47-Pub(B).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

NEW DELHI-3, the 1st November, 1947.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

Subject:- National Flag.

The National Flag of the Indian Dominion has been designed by the Constituent Assembly of India, but it is for the Government of India, in the appropriate Ministries concerned, to take up modifications of the National Flag for the various uses of its different administrative units, such as the Army, Navy etc., and to frame necessary rules and regulations for the use of the Flag and the prevention of its abuse. The following points are therefore for urgent consideration:-

(1) The adaptation of the National Flag for the use e.g. of:-

(a) civilians;

(b) the Army, the Navy, the Air Force;

(c) the merchant shipping (or Mercantile Marine);

(d) the Governor-General, the Governors, the Prime Minister of the Dominion and other high ranking officers;

(e) the Acceding States of the Indian Dominion;

(f) the Embassies, the Consulates and other diplomatic offices of the Indian Dominion established aborad;

(2) The various sizes of the flags for the purposes mentioned against (1), the central place of manufacture and the central store for stocks and sale;

(3) The framing of rules /.....

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(3) The framing of rules and regulations for prescribing the premises and occasions on which, and the officials by whom, the National Flag should be flown;

(4) Any other details.

2. The question is important and intricate and it is felt that it should in the first instance be tackled by a committee represented by the Ministries of Home Affairs, Commerce, Defence (associated with representatives of the Army, Navy and the Air Force), States and External Affairs and Commonwealth Relation. It is proposed, therefore, to convene a meeting in which the Ministries specified above will participate fixed tentatively for Friday the 14th November 1947 at 3 p.m. in Room No. 104 South Block. Any change in the time and place of meeting will be duly intimated. The Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs will preside. It is requested that the Ministry of Commerce etc., will make it convenient to send their representatives on that date and intimate their name in advance to this Ministry.

3. It will be helpful if the representatives come to the meeting sufficiently briefed with all available information and expert advice on the points to be discussed.

A copy of a note on the various types and uses of the British Flag is attached.

(E.C. Gaynor)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Ministry of Commerce,
Defence,
External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations,
States.

BLJ/- 1/11/-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

Note on important variations of the British National Flag.

1. THE UNION JACK is the most important of all British ensigns and is flown by representatives of the Empire all the world over. It flies from the jackstaff of every man-of -war in the navy. With the Irish harp on a blue shield displayed in the centre, it is flown by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland.

The Governor-General of India flies the Union Jack with the star and device of the order of the Star of India in the centre.

Colonial Governors fly it with the badge of their colony displayed in the centre.

Diplomatic Representatives use it with the royal arms in the centre.

As a military flag it is flown over fortresses and headquarters, and on all occassions of military ceremonial.

Hoisted at the mainmast of a man-of war it is the flag of an admiral of the fleet.

2. The ROYAL STANDARD is a Sovereign flag and, even on Royal Palaces, is flown only when The King is actually present in the building (or in residence); for example, at the Palace of Westminster, known generally as the Houses of Parliament, the flag flown on the appointed days is the Union Jack, the Royal Standard being hoisted only while His Majesty is actually in the building.

There are also separate Standards for Her Majesty the Queen, H.R.H. the Prince (ss) and other members of the Royal Family.

3. ENSIGNS/....

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

3. ENSIGNS are of three kinds, the White Ensigns, the Blue Ensign, and the Red Ensign.

(a) The White Ensign is flown by the Royal Navy and the Royal Yacht Squadrons, the chief of all yacht clubs. The man-of-war flies besides the White Ensign a long streamer from the maintop-gallant masthead.

(b) The Blue Ensign is exclusively the flag of the Public service other than the royal navy, and is as well the flag of the royal naval reserve. This flag is also flown by certain vessels of the British mercantile marine, the conditions governing this privilege being that the captain and certain specified portion of the officers and crew shall belong to the ranks of the Royal Naval Reserve. Various other authorities are also authorised to fly this Blue Ensign under specified conditions.

(c) The Red Ensign is the distinguishing flag of the British merchant service.

The Ensigns, it is important to remember, are purely maritime flags, and though the rule is more honoured in the breach than in the observance, the only flag that a private individual or a corporation has a right to display on shore is the national flag, the Union Jack, in its plain condition and without any emblazonment.

4. ADMIRALTY FLAG is a plain red flag with a clear anchor in the centre in yellow.

5. The flag of the master of the Trinity House is the red cross of St. George on its white ground, but with an ancient ship on the waves in each quarter; in the centre is a shield with a precisely similar device and surmounted by a lion.

6/.....

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

6. The sign of a British Admiral's command afloat is the St. George's Cross.

7. Flags of Colonies: The flags of the British Colonies are the same as those of the mother country, but differentiated by the badge of the colony being placed in the centre of the flag if it is the Union Jack, or in the fly if it be the blue or red ensign.

In the Blue Ensign for New Zealand the device of the colony is a southern cross in the fly. The same flag with a large six pointed star, emblematic of the six states immediately under the union, forms the flag of the federated commonwealth of Australia. The flag of the dominion of Canada is a red ensign, the device in the fly being the armorial bearings of the Dominion.

Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, as the representative of royalty, flies the Union Jack with a harp in the centre. Colonial Governors or High Commissioners fly the Union Flag with the arms of the colony they preside over on a white shield in the centre and surrounded by a laurel wreath. In the case of Canada the wreath, however, is not of laurel but of maple, which is the special emblem of the Dominion.

8. Flags flown by British Diplomatic and Consular Offices.

The flag to be used by His Majesty's Diplomatic Servants, Ministers Plenipotentiary, Charges D'Affairs, &c. whether on shore or embarked in boats or other vessels, is the Union, with the Royal Arms in the centre thereof, on a white shield, surrounded by a green garland.

The flag to be used by His Majesty's Consular officers ashore, to distinguish their residences, is the Union, with the Tudor Crown in the Centre thereof, on a white shield.

The flag to be used/.....

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

The flag to be used by His Majesty's Consular Officers, when embarked in boats or other vessels, is the Blue Ensign, with the Royal Arms in the Centre of the fly thereof - that is, in the centre of that part between the Union and the end of the flag. The Consular Blue Ensign, being a personal distinguishing flag, must in boats be flown at the bow, and not at the stern, which is the accepted position for the national colours. No further flag is necessary, but if for some special reason it is desired to fly a flag at the stern, this should be the Red Ensign. The Consular flag is hoisted in boats only and not in ships except when a salute is being given to the Consular Officer concerned, when it is hoisted at the fore.

9. Every battalion of infantry in the British Army, except the Rifles, has two colours, namely, the King's colour and the regimental colour. The former consists for all regiments, of the union device, with the name of the regiment in the centre and the number of the battalion on the upper part near the staff. The regimental colour is of the same colour as the collars and facings of the regiment, but if these are white, it bears a Saint George's cross in red. On it are emblazoned the name of the regiment, the names of the battles in which it has served, and its various badges etc. Cavalry regiments and other divisions of army have variations of the standards.

10. Miscellaneous informations: Pendants or Buntings are flags generally used in connection with the use of signalling.

Shipping companies have generally square flags with distinguishing colours and devices.

A white flag is/.....

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

-5-

A white flag is universally used as a flag of truce.

A quarantine flag is yellow.

Vessels carrying explosives display red flag.

A flag exhibited upsidedown is a signal of distress.

A flag flown half mast is a signal of mourning.

Striking a flag is a token of surrender and placing of one flag over another is a token of victory of the former.

The dipping of a flag is a mark of respect.

BLJ/- 1/11/47.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.no.13

25 (85)

No.87/2/47-Public (B).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS,

New Delhi 3, the 1st November, 1947.

MEMORANDUM.

Subject:- National Flag.

A copy of this Ministry Office Memorandum of even number and date is enclosed, which is self explanatory.

2. It will be appreciated if the Constituent Assembly can make it convenient to depute a representative to the meeting regarding the National Flag. The name of the officer may kindly be intimated in advance.

(A.V.Raman),
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Constituent Assembly.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

PRIORITY

S.No. 14.

~~Immediate.~~

No.F.87/2/47-Public (B).
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs.
New Delhi, the 4th November 1947.

Memorandum.

Subject: Removal of Flag- Irwin Stadium.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Ministry's memorandum of even number dated the 16/17th October 1947 on the above subject and request that a reply thereto may kindly be expedited.

for Assistant Secretary.

To

The Ministry of Defence,
New Delhi.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. no. 15.

CA/78/Cons/47.

87

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

D. 4235/47-Pub B
10—11—47

Council House,

New Delhi, the 7th Nov. 1947.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

SUB: NATIONAL FLAG.

With reference to the Office Memorandum No. 87/2/47-Public (B), dated the 1st/2nd Nov. 1947, from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the undersigned is directed to say that Mr. Jugal Kishore Khanna, Deputy Secretary, Constituent Assembly of India, will represent this Secretariat at the meeting convened for Friday the 14th November 1947 at 3 P.M. in room No. 104, South Block, to consider certain modifications of the National Flag for the use of Army, Navy, etc.

Cir. p. 18

P. N. Krishnamani

(P.N. KRISHNAMANI)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

The Ministry of Home Affairs.
NEW DELHI.

'V'

Rule (B) 7/11 Some pt. 8/11

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Serial 16

(22) 28

No. D.4531-Pt/47. Dy.no. 165/48-Public Dt: 15.1.48.

Government of India.

Ministry of External Affairs and

Commonwealth Relation.

Dated New Delhi 3, the 10th/11 November, 1947.

Better postpone & talk meeting. 11/11 Mr. Ramani AS(C) 11.11.47

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

Subject:- NATIONAL FLAG.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Office Memorandum from the Ministry of Home Affairs No.87/2/47-Pub(B), dated the 2nd November, 1947, on the above subject, and to say that the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations have already addressed enquiries to Indian Embassies abroad on the points mentioned in paragraph 1 of the Office Memorandum. In the circumstances, it is suggested that, if the Ministry of Home Affairs sees no objection, replies from these Embassies may be awaited before a meeting of the Committee referred to in paragraph 2 of the memorandum is convened. The Embassies concerned have also been reminded to-day by telegram to expedite their replies.

T. Sundaram

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Ministry of Home Affairs,

NEW DELHI.

....

"Mehta" 10/-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Sno.17

(89)

No.87/2/47-Pub(B)
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs.

New Delhi 3, the 13th November 1947.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: National Flag.

Reference para 2 of this Ministry's Office Memorandum of even number dated the 2nd November 1947 regarding national flags.

The External Affairs & Commonwealth Relations Ministry desire some time to collect information from their Embassies. The meeting fixed for the ~~/////~~ 14th November 1947 is therefore, being postponed for the present. A further communication will follow shortly as to the time and service of the meeting.

(The ~~/////~~ External Affairs & Commonwealth Relations Ministry are requested to inform us as to the earliest possible date by which we can hold the meeting - their Office Memorandum No. D-4531-Pt/47 dated the 10th November 1947 refers. It will be appreciated that the matter is rather urgent.)

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ry
nly.

Sd/- A.V.Raman
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India

To

The Ministry of Commerce
Defence.
E.A. & C.R.
States.
Constituent Assembly (vide their No.CA/78/Cons/47 dt. 7.11.47.)

Copy also to : D.S.(G)
A.S.(C)
P.S. to Secretary.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

in the present changed conditions to retain the old items (a) to (b) as occasions on which the Flag should be hoisted and instead of them Independence Day on August 15 and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday might be included as days on which the National Flag should be flown. If the Central Government consider that the National Flag should be hoisted on any other days throughout India then the Provincial Government will also issue similar instructions for this province.

3. The Home Department had in their letter no.F.362/27-Public dated July 6, 1927, communicated the sizes of the various flags which should be flown by Civil Officers entitled to fly flags. Those dimensions were, however, in respect of the Union Viceroy and the Union Jack and it is probable that it may be necessary to vary those dimensions in view of the different design of the National Flag. It is requested that the Government of India may please intimate what should be the sizes of the flags which should be flown by the various persons authorised to fly them and the sizes of the flags which should be flown on Government buildings. The Provincial Government would suggest that Ministers of this Government may be authorised to fly the National Flag of similar dimensions to that authorised for the Provincial Legislature. On receipt of such instructions the Provincial Government will take action to obtain the necessary supply of flags from their Industries Department.

4. According to the practice followed in respect of Union Jack, except on special occasions when the flag was kept flying for all the twentyfour hours the custom was to hoist the flag at sunrise at the time of 'reveille' and it remained flying till sunset when it was hauled down at the time of playing the 'retreat'. At the time of the Independence Day celebrations on August 15 directions were issued that the National Flag should be hoisted on all Government offices and in the absence of orders to the contrary the National Flag in many places continued to fly night and day from that time without being removed. There is, therefore, lack of uniformity and it is desirable that a common rule should be followed throughout India in respect of t times of hoisting and removal of the National Flag and with respect a to ~~xxxxx~~ any formalities which should be observed on such occasions.

It is.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

It is requested that the Central Government may issue the instructions necessary in this connection and the Provincial Government may also please be informed whether the National Flag should be flown every day on all Government buildings or only on the buildings specified in the list given in paragraph 1. This Government may also be informed on what buildings and at what times the flag should be hoisted on the anniversaries of such special occasions as may be prescribed.

5. There remains one further point on which a decision will be necessary and that is the question of the flying of the National Flag by private individuals. It is believed that there is no restriction on the flying of the Union Jack in the United Kingdom and at present it is open to any person to fly the National Flag in India. It is for consideration whether it is necessary to control flying of the Flag by private persons so as to prevent it being put to usages which lower the dignity of the Flag or render its exhibition commonplace or which detracts from the significance proper to its display. This is a point which affects the whole of India and is one on which the Provincial Government would be grateful for the guidance of the Central Government regarding the policy which should be adopted. This Government is, however, strongly of opinion that flying in public places of any State flag other than the National Flag should not be permitted except in the case of foreign legations and consulates etc. where such privileges are accorded.

6. The questions raised above are of considerable importance and are by their nature such as should be decided on an all India basis so that a uniform policy and practice may be followed throughout the Dominion. The Provincial Government have, therefore, considered it advisable to refer the above matters for the decision of the Central Government and it is requested that their decision thereon may be communicated to this Government as soon as convenient.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

K.P. Bhargava

(K.P. Bhargava)
Joint Secretary,
for Chief Secretary.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. no. 18

(92) 50

No. 4683/III-534(2)/1947

All Communications to this Office should give the No., Date and Subject of any previous correspondence, and should note the department quoted

FROM

B.N.Jha, Esquire, I.C.S.,

Chief SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, UNITED PROVINCES,

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
NEW DELHI.

ASC B
Pub B
15/12

Dy no. 166/48-Public
Dt. 15-1-48.

Dated Lucknow, December 12, 1947.

Subject:- Flying of the National Flag.

SIR,

General Administration DEPARTMENT

I am directed to refer to the instructions by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief contained in paragraph 779 of the Regulations for the Army of India which gives a list of Civil officers entitled to fly flags. In accordance with that instruction and under existing practice the Union Jack which was previously the official flag was flown by the undernoted officials and at the following places. The dimensions of the flags prescribed in each case are given in brackets against each item:-

(1) His Excellency the Governor of the United Provinces - Union Viceroy (18'x 12

(2) All Residents, Political Agents and Political Officers. - Union Viceroy (21' x 10½', 12' x 6 or 6' x 3' as authorised).

(3) Provincial Legislative Councils (also by implication Provincial Legislative Assembly) - Union Jack (12'x 6'

(4) High Court, Allahabad and Chief Court of Oudh - Union Jack (12'x 6'

(5) Offices of Commissioners of Divisions - Union Jack (6' x 3'

(6) Courts of Districts and Sessions Judges. - Union Jack (6' x 3'

(7).....

PSUP—725 Genl.—1947. Secrt. 29—20,000.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(7) Offices of Collectors and Deputy Commissioners of districts on all days at which the executive court of the district was sitting - Union Jack.

(8) Residences of Commissioners of Divisions - -do-

(9) Residences of Collectors and Deputy Commissioners - -do-

(10) At all Reserve Police Lines in the province the flag was flown every day being hoisted from morning till evening.

(11) At Government buildings generally to mark occasions of public rejoicings for which specific dates had been prescribed.

The Government of India in their letter No.F.206/36-Public dated May 10, 1937, forwarded a fresh list of the days on which the Union Jack was to be flown from Central Government buildings and which are:-

(a) New Year's Day (January 1)

(b) Birthday of Princess Elizabeth (April 21)

(c) Empire Day (May 24).

(d) Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Mary. (May 26)

(e) Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. (August 4)

(f) Armistice Day (November 11)

(g) Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession.

(h) His Majesty's Birthday and also any day appointed for the official celebration of that day.

2. The above instructions were issued with respect to the flying of the Union Jack but in view of the changed constitutional position and as the nation has now its own National Flag it is proper that the places and occasions on which the flag should be flown should now be determined. Having regard to the fact that there has been no change in the designation and functions of the officers under the Provincial Administration it is unnecessary to substantially modify the list of officers authorised to fly the official flag or to alter the places on which the flag should be flown. The Provincial Government, therefore, propose that the officers and places which should be authorised to fly the National Flag should continue to be as listed at items (1) to (9) above but Ministers of the Provincial Government should also be included in the above list. As regards the occasions on which the Flag should be flown it is presumably no longer necessary

in the.....

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

5.No.19 (44) 34

D.4784/47—Pub(B)
15—12—47

No.2532/F.183(47).

Embassy of India in China,
Nanking,
The 2 December 1947.

Subject:-Indian National flag -
Procedure to be observed in the use etc of the -

Dear Ministry,

Under instructions from the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations we enclose a copy of the rules framed by the National Government of China concerning the use, etc of their flag.

2. A separate communication in connection with the rules and practices regarding the use of foreign flags in China will follow.

Yours ever,

Chancery.

Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

Copied (without enclosure) to Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations with reference to Foreign telegram 2544PL, dated the 10th November 1947 and D.Os. Nos.D.4456-G/47 and D.4886-G/47 dated the 7th October and 5th November, respectively.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(95)

TRANSLATION

THE REGULATION OF THE NATIONAL FLAG OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE PARTY FLAG OF KMT.

Chapter I. General Principles.

Article 1. The National Flag of the Republic of China shall have a red background and, in the upper left corner, a blue sky with a white sun. The Party Flag of KMT shall have a blue background with a white sun in the centre.

Article 2. The National Flag and the Party Flag are made of China-made silk, cotton, woolen or hempen stuff. The National Flag of China is sky-blue, snow-white and deep red in colour. The party Flag is sky-blue and snow-white in colour. The flag-pole must be white with a yellow, spherical top.

Chapter II. Manufacture

Article 3. The breadth and the length of these flags are in the ratio of three to two. The flagstaff must be double the flag in length.

Article 4. The proportional sizes of different parts of the Party Flag are :

(1). The centre of the white sun should be at the point where the two perpendicular-bisectors of the Party Flag meet.

(2). The diameter of the white sun should be three-eighths of the Party flag in length. The distance between the vertexs of two opposite rays of the white sun is six-eighths of the Party Flag in length.

(3). The diameter of the white sun should be one-fourth of the Party flag in breadth. The distance between the vertexs

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

of every two opposite reys of the white sun is two-fourths of the breadth of the Party Flag.

(4). The blue circle around the white sun in breadth is one-fifth of the diameter of the white sun.

(5). There are twelves rays altogether. Each vertex-angle of a ray is 30 degrees . Twelve such angles make a circle. The vertical and the horizental angle-bisectors must be perpenticular with each other.

(6). The angle-bisector from the vertex to the side of the white sun is half as long as the diameter of the white sun.

Article 5. The blue sky and the white sun must be in the upper left corner of the National Flag (near the flagstaff). In length and bredth ,it is the half of the red background.

Article . The manufacture of the National flag and the Party Flag of KMT must also be in accordance with the Regulations of Standard Weights and Measures as publish d by the Government and Diagram of the Proportional Sizes of Different Parts of the National Flag and the Party Flag. The above-mentioned Regulation and Diagram are attached to this Regulation.

Chapter III. Using

Article 7. All military,political and party organizations and schools must have the National and the Party Flag hung on the wall of their meeting rooms, auditoriams, or assembly halls . The National Flag must be on the left and the Party Flag on the right. Both are at an incline of 30 to 40 degrees(the portrait of Dr. Sun Yet-sen being at the centre.)

Article 8. The time for flying the National Flag and the Party Flag in the open air is fron sunrise to sunset.

Article 9. Flags flown at the door must be above the lintel of the door and a little to the left; it should Be at an angle

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

from 30 to 40 degrees to the lintel. When the National Flag and the Party Flag are flown at the door, they must intersect with each other.

Article 10. The standard size of those flags flown in shops and civilians' homes is regulated in No. 6 of the attached list.

Article. 11. While the National Flag and a foreign flag are flown together, the size of them and the height of the flag-poles must be the same; ~~and~~ the Chinese National Flag should be on the left and the foreign flag on the right.

Article 12. In marching in a single line, the National Flag must proceed before the Party Flag; In marching in twos, the former is on the left and the latter on the right.

Article 13. The National Flag and the Party Flag should not be decorated with any symbols, with the exception of those which are to be provided by law (as those of the land, navy and air force etc.)

Article 14. Bussiness firms are forbidden to use the design of the National flag and the Party flag as a trademark for their product or abuse it for some other purpose.

Article.15. When these flags are worn out, they should not be thrown away or ~~be~~ used for some other purpose. If any of them are of a historical value, it should be kept carefully by ~~some~~ the cultural organizations concerned.

Chapter IV Hoisting and lowering.

Article 16. A flag-pole should be set up by every school and every political, military or Party organizations to hoist the National flag. The headquarter of the KMT should set up two poles in order to hoist the Party Flag also.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Article 17. The program of the ceremony of flag-hoisting or lowering is as follows :

(1). Stand at attention.

(2), Sing the National Anthem.

(3). Hoist or lower the Flag.

(4). The ceremony is over.

Article 18. Every citizen should stand at attention and salute while th flag is hoisting or lowering.

Article 19. On occassions when the flag must be flown at half-mast, it should first be hoisted to the top of the pole and then handed down for a distance as two times he breadth of the fl g; and it should be hoisted to the top before lowered.

Article 20. Chinese fleet, embassies, legations and consulate in foreign countries may hold the flag-hoisting(or lowering) ceremony in accordance with the international ~~usage~~ practice; but they must refer to this regulation.

Chapter V . Annex

rticle 21. Any act in violation with this regul tion, with the exception of those which shall otherwise be provided by law, should be corrected or forbidden by the police or local authorities.

Articl 22. This regulation becomes effective as soon as it is approved by the Central Executive Committee .

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. no. 20

(99) 39

Dy. no. 167/48-Public
Dt. 15-1-48

A.S.(P) ak
Public
23/1/48

From: The Assistant Secretary of the Embassy of India.

To: The Under Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Government of India,
New Delhi, India.

No: F.94/47, dated Washington, D. C., the 3rd of November, 1947.

Subject: Information regarding regulations in respect to the flag.

S.W.O.(I) ni 7-52(36)-47/1st Supp.

Sir:

In compliance with instructions contained in Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations D. O. No. D4456-G/47, dated 7th October, 1947, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of Public Law 829-77th Congress, entitled "Joint Resolution to Codify and Emphasize existing Rules and Customs pertaining to the Use of the Flag of the United States of America".

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

T. W. Arnold,
Assistant Secretary.

TWA:mef
Encl.

cc. (letter) for information to
Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations,
Government of India,
New Delhi, India.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(Public Law 829--77th Congress)

(Chapter 806--2d Session)

(H. J. Res. 359)

JOINT RESOLUTION

To amend Public Law Numbered 623, approved June 22, 1942, entitled "Joint resolution to codify and emphasize existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America".

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That Public Law Numbered 623, approved June 22, 1942, entitled "Joint resolution to codify and emphasize existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America", be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

That the following codification of existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America be, and it is hereby, established for the use of such civilians or civilian groups or organizations as may not be required to conform with regulations promulgated by one or more executive departments of the Government of the United States.

Sec. 2. (a) It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, the flag may be displayed at night upon special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect.

(b) The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously

(c) the flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement.

(d) The flag should be displayed on all days when the weather permits, especially on New Year's Day, January 1; Inauguration Day, January 20; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, February 22; Army Day, April 6; Easter Sunday(variable); Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; Memorial Day (half staff until noon), May 30; Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, first Monday in September; Constitution Day, September 17; Columbus Day, October 12; Navy Day, October 27; Armistice Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; Christmas Day, December 25; such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States (dates of admission); and on State holidays.

(e) The flag should be displayed daily, weather permitting, on or near the main administration building of every public institution.

(f) The flag should be displayed in or near every polling place on election days.

(g) The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Sec. 3. That the flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

(a) The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff, or as provided in subsection(i).

(b) The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle or of a railroad train or a boat. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the radiator cap.

(c) No other flag or pennant should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the United States of America, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for the personnel of the Navy.

(d) The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right, the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

(e) The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

(f) When flags of States, cities, or localities,or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the right of the flag of the United States.

(g) When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

(h) When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the ecge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

(i) When the flag is displayed otherwise than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out, or so suspended that its folds fall as free as though the flag were staffed.

(j) When the flag is displayed over the middle of the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east west street or to the east in a north and south street.

(k) When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from astaff in a church or public auditorium, if it is displayed on the chancel of a church, or on the speaker's platform in a public auditoriom, the flag should occupy the position of honor and be placed at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the congregation or audience. Any other flag so displayed

in the chancel or on the platform should be placed at the clergyman's or speaker's left as he faces the congregation or audience. But when the flag is displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium elsewhere than in the chancel or on the platform it shall be placed in the position of honor at the right of the congregation or audience as they face the chancel or platform. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the congregation or audience as they face the chancel or platform.

(l) The flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but it should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.

(m) The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By "half-staff" is meant lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstaffs in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.

(n) When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

Sec 4. That no disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

(a) The flag should never be displayed with the union down save as a signal of dire distress.

(b) The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as theground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

(c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

(d) The flag should never be used as drapery of any sort whatsoever, never festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white, and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of a platform, and for decoration in general.

(e) The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as will permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.

(f) The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

(g) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

(h) The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

(i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

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(j) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way , preferably by burning.

Sec.5. That during the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in a review, all persons present should face the flag, stand at attention, and salute. Those present in uniform should render the military salute. When not in uniform, men should remove the headdress with the right hand holding it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Men without hats should salute in the same manner. Aliens should stand at attention. Women should salute by placing the right hand over the heart. The salute to the flag in the moving column should be rendered at the monent the flag passes.

Sec. 6. That when the national anthem is played and the flag is not displayed, all present should stand and face toward the music. Those in uniform should salute at the first note of the anthem, retaining this position until the last note. All others should stand at attention, men removing the headdress. When the flag is displayed, all present should face the flag and salute.

Sec 7. That the pledge of allegiance to the flag, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" , be rendered by standing with the right hand over the heart. However, civilians will always show full respect to the flag when the pledge is given by merely standing at attention, men removing the headdress. Persons in uniform shall render the military salute.

Sec. 8. Any rule or custom pertaining to the display of the flag of the United States of America, set forth herein, may be altered, modified, or repealed, or additional rules with respect thereto may be prescribed, by the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, whenever he deems it to be appropriate or desirable; and any such alteration or additional rule shall be set forth in a proclamation.

Approved, December 22, 1942

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Serial (21) (104) Immediate

No.F.87/2/47-Public (B).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS,
New Delhi 3, the 6th January, 1948.

—

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

Subject:- NATIONAL FLAG.

Reference this Ministry's Office Memorandum of even number dated the 13th November, 1947 regarding National Flag.

2. It is now proposed to convene a meeting on Friday the 16th January, 1948 at 3 P.M. in Room No. 104, South Block, to consider the questions mentioned in the enclosed Agenda. It is requested that the Ministries concerned will make it convenient to send their representatives on that date and intimate their names in advance to this Ministry.

(A copy of this Ministry's letters of even number dated the 2nd and 13th November, 1947 are enclosed for the information of the Ministry of Transport.)

Enclosed

( ) for Ministry of Transport only.

O/C and

(A.V.Raman),
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Ministry of Commerce.
Defence.
E.A. & C.R.
States.
Transport, and

The Constituent Assembly.

—

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A G E N D A .

1. Adaptation of the National Flag for the use e.g. of:-
   (a) civilians;
   (b) the Army, the Navy, the Air Force;
   (c) the merchant shipping (or Mercantile marine);
   (d) the Governor General, the Governors, the Prime Minister of the Dominion and other high ranking officers;
   (e) the Acceding States of the Indian Dominion;
   (f) the Embassies, the Consulates and other diplomatic offices of the Indian Dominion established abroad.
2. Various sizes of the flags for the purposes mentioned against 1, the central place of manufacture and the central stores for stocks and sale.
3. Framing of rules and regulations for prescribing the premises and occasions on which, and the officials by whom the National Flag should be flown.

   Immediate issue of interim instructions, if considered necessary, regarding -
   (a) Persons authorised to fly National Flag and public buildings on which they are to be flown; and
   (b) use of the flag by the public, in advertisements etc.
4. Any other relevant matters.

...

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Express Letter.

Serial (22)

106

No. 6273 P.G.

Government of Bihar,
Political Department.

Dy No. 125/48—Pub(B),
12—1—48

From

S. J. Majumdar., Esqr., I.C.S.,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To

The Assistant Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

Patna, the 13th December, 1947.

Sir,

I am directed to say that notice has been received from a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, of a resolution to be moved during the next session of the Assembly, regarding ban on display of the National Flag by private individuals except on special occasions.

I am to enquire whether the Government of India propose to issue any general, order or instructions on this subject.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

S. Majumdar
Deputy Secretary to Government.

J. Sahai.

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Serial (23)

107/47

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

EXPRESS LETTER.

From

HOMEIN
NEW DELHI.

To

BIHAR
PATNA.

No.87/2/47-Public(B). New Delhi 3, the 12th January 1948.

Subject:- National Flag.

Your Express Letter No.6273/P.G. dated 13.12.47 regarding ban on display of national flag by private individuals. There is no ban on such use in any country, but we are considering measures applicable to India. Please await further communication from us shortly.

12/1

HOMEIN.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Serial (24)

(108) -48

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

EXPRESS LETTER.

RECEIVED
On 12/1
Initial
Re.

From

HOMEIN
NEW DELHI.

To

UPAO
LUCKNOW.

No.87/2/47-Public(B). New Delhi 3, the 12th January 1948.

Subject:- National Flag.

Your letter No.4863/III-534(2)/1947 dated 12.12.47 on the above subject. The points raised in your letter will be decided by us shortly and a communication will be sent to you and other Provincial Governments. You are requested to postpone any action in this regard until decisions have been taken by us on all points raised by you.

ar
12/1

HOMEIN.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Serial (25) (109) Immediate

Dy no. 162/48-Public
Dt. 15-1-48

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Subject:- National flag.

Reference Ministry of Home Affairs O.M.No.F.87/2/47-Public (B) dated January 6, 1948 on the above subject The Ministry of Transport will be represented at the meeting by Rai Sahib Topan Lal, Assistant Secretary.

Topan Lal

(Topan Lal)
Assistant Secretary.

Ministry of Home Affairs
Ministry of Transport u.o.No. 19-P(39)/47 dated 19-1-194

2.c.s.
Encl.nil.
"SDS"/13.1.1948

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Recd at 9pm
15/1
14/1

Serial (26)

(110)

(50)

No. D.374-G/48.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Ministry
~~DEPARTMENT~~ OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS.

New Delhi, (3) the 14th January 1948.

Memorandum.

Subject :— National Flag.

Dy: 169/48-Public
15.1.48.

With reference to Office Memorandum No. F.87/2/47-Public(b) dated the 6th January, 1948, from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the undersigned is directed to say that Rao Sahib T.J.Natarajan, Assistant Secretary, will represent this Ministry at the proposed meeting to be convened on Friday the 16th January 1948 at 3 P.M. in Room No. 104, South Block, to consider the question of the National Flag.

O.N. Sharma

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Ministry of Home Affairs,
Government of India, New Delhi.

Suri.

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Serial (27), Immediate (111)

No. F.7/47/Good
Government of India,
Ministry of Defence,
New Delhi, the 15th January 1948.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

The undersigned is directed to refer to O.M. No.F.87/2/47-Public(B), dated the 6th January 1948, from the Ministry of Home Affairs, on the subject of National Flag, and to say that the following officers will represent the Ministry of Defence at the meeting to be held on the 16th January 1948:-

(1) Mr.M.K.Ganguli,
Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

(2) Lt.Commander A.K.Chatterjee,
Naval Headquarters.

(3) Lt.Col.K.P.Dube,
Army Headquarters.

(4) S/Ldr. Basant Singh,
Air Headquarters.

(S.S.PURI)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA.

Ministry of Home Affairs. (Mr Raman)

A.S.(Pb) 15/1

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S.NO.28 (112)

No.87/2/47-Pub.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
Ministry of Home Affairs.

NEW DELHI-3, the 13th February, 1948.

Subject:- National Flag- proceedings of inter-Ministerial meeting.

The undersigned is directed to enclose a copy of the proceedings of the inter-Ministerial meeting held under the auspicious of this Ministry on the 16th January 1948 to discuss various matters concerning the National Flag of India. It is requested that the comments of the Ministry of Defence, etc. be communicated to this Ministry within three days of receipt of this Memorandum. If no reply is received within that time, it will be assumed that the Ministry of Defence, etc. have no comments.

2. As regards the example of the South African Union referred to in 'A' of paras 2 & 3 of the proceedings, it may be mentioned that the Naval Headquarters representative (Lt. Commander A.K. Chatterjee) informed this Ministry subsequent to the meeting that the South African Union had broken off completely from the Dominion practice regarding the National Flag viz that the present naval flag is a white ensign (white flag) with the national flag in the upper Dexter Canton, while formerly the Red Ensign (British) was used suitably defaced by the national flag. This gives a stronger reason for our breaking away from the Dominion practice; and we should be grateful for the views of the Defence etc. Ministry on the point. The Naval

P.T.O.

ISSUED On 13/2/48 Initial R. & I.

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(Contd. from pre-page).

-2-

Headquarters representative also stated that they have in view the organisation of Naval Auxiliaries for India for which suitable flags will have to be designed on the United Kingdom model.

(A.S)

To

The Ministry Defence (Mr.M.K.Gangoli
Lt.Col. Dulee, AHQ
L/C A.K.Chaltarjee NHQ
L/C Bhagat Singh Air HQ)

States (Mr.C.Gawson).

Commerce (Mr.P.R. Subramaniam).

E.A.&.C.R. (Mr.T.T. Natrajan).

Transport (Mr.Topan Lall).

The Constituent Assembly (Mr.Jugal Kishore Khanna).

BLJ/-7/2/-

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MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

Proceedings of a meeting held under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs on Friday the 16th January, 1948 at 3 P.M. regarding the National Flag.

The meeting was convened to discuss -

(1) Adaptation of the National Flag for the use e.g. of :-

(a) Civilians,

(b) the Army, the Navy, the Air Force,

(c) the merchant shipping, ~~(or Mercantile Marine)~~,

(d) the Governor General, Governors, the Prime Minister of the Dominion and other high ranking officers,

(e) the Acceding States of the Indian Dominion,

(f) the Embassies, the Consulates and other Diplomatic Offices of the Indian Dominion abroad

(2) the various sizes of the flags for the purposes mentioned against (1), the central place of manufacture and the central stores for stocks and sales;

(3) the framing of rules and regulations for prescribing the premises and occasions on which, and the officials by whom the National Flag should be flown, immediate interim instructions being issued if necessary regarding -

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(i) persons authorised to fly the National Flag and public buildings on which they are to be flown; and

(ii) use of the flag by the public, in advertisements etc.,

(iii) any other points not covered by the above relevant to the issue.

The representatives of the Ministries of Defence, States, Commerce, E.A. & C.R., Transport and the Constituent Assembly were invited. The following were present :-

Ministry of Home Affairs:

1. Mr. R.N. Banerjee, Secretary.
2. Mr. R.A. Gopalaswami, Joint Secretary.
3. Mr. A.V. Raman, Assistant Secretary.

Ministry of Defence:

4. Mr. M.K. Ganguli, Deputy Secretary.
5. Lt. Col. K.P. Dube (Army Headquarters).
6. Lt. Commander A.K. Chatterjee (Naval HQ)
7. Squadron Leader Basant Singh (Air HQ).

Ministry of States:

8. Mr. C. Ganesan, Deputy Secretary.

Ministry of Commerce:

9. Mr. P.R. Subramaniam, Under Secretary.

Ministry of E.A. & C.R.

10. Mr. T.J. Natarajan, Assistant Secy.

Ministry of Transport
11. Mr. Tofan Lall, Asst. Secy

Constituent Assembly:

12. Mr. Jugal Kishore Khanna, Deputy Secy.

Mr. R.N. Banerjee and in his absence Mr. R.A. Gopalaswami presided.

2. GENERAL:

The chairman invited at first general comments on the uses of the flag and measures to prevent its abuse, as also the question of adaptation of the National Flag.

The representative of the Constituent

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War Ships, Merchant Ships and Government vessels at present, and also particular Naval Officers' flags and special uses when going on action.

War ships - Ensign - White Ensign;
Jack - National Flag;
Mast head pendant -
St. George's Cross next to the mast with a white fly.

~~Flags in action -~~ In addition to the usual white ensign, one or more White Ensigns of the largest size available in prominent positions to fly while in action.

Merchant Ships - Red Ensign aft at sea suitably defaced;
Jack at Harbour in addition to Ensign suitably designed by the Company;
Also on special occasions, a house flag (same ~~aft~~ as Jack) flown at mast.

Also merchant vessels fly the Blue Ensign when commanded by a Retired Naval Officer or officer of the Reserves under certain circumstances. In addition, Government Deptt. vessels fly the Blue Ensign defaced by a suitable badge.

The representative suggested the following modifications may suitably be adopted for the Indian Navy :-

War Ships - White Ensign - To be worn by Indian Naval vessels as at present.
Jack - Indian National Flag.
Masthead pendant - Colours of the National Flag on the part of the pendant next to the mast with a white ~~flag~~ fly.

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Assembly stated that the Constituent Assembly having designed the National Flag, it was for the Government of India in the appropriate Ministry concerned to take up the adaptation of the flag for the various uses in its administrative units concerned and frame the relevant rules and regulations thereof. It was also necessary to issue directives laying down definite rules to safeguard against indiscriminate use of the flag by the public and the misuse of the cherished and honoured symbol of the State in advertisements, etc., in the trade.

The representative of the Naval Headquarters pointed out that the over-riding consideration in examining the question of adaptation of the National Flag would bethat India is a member of the British Commonwealth and should therefore advisably follow the practice of the Dominions in the matter. It is, however, not necessary to follow blindly the prevalent practice as Indians, as a race, are different from the British. We could emulate the South African example and adopt a distinctive national flag unlike the other members of the Dominion. This, the representative of the Constituent Assembly added, would be quite in order and there would be no constitutional impediment involved in breaking off from current Dominion practice. The N.H.Q. representative explained thereafter the use of the White Ensign by the Indian Navy on the

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~~Flags in action~~ - One largest-sized National Flag be flown at a prominent position in action.

Merchant Ships - Red Ensign defaced by Asoka's Wheel in black in the fly.

Jack - suitable emblem which the company may desire to use with saffron as the predominant colour or with saffron border and/or Asoka's Wheel incorporated in the badge.

House Flag: on main masthead similar to the Jack.

Other Vessels: Blue Ensign be continued to be used suitably defaced by Asoka's Wheel in yellow. Jack for merchant vessels entitled to wear the Blue Ensign should be the same as for Government vessels detailed below.

Govt. Deptt. Vessels: To use blue ensign defaced by a suitable badge to denote duties on which employed, in yellow. This badge may be ringed with a saffron ring and the Asoka's Wheel in the badge, if possible. Jack for Government vessel should be the National Flag without the Asoka's Wheel defaced by the badge stated above circled with a blue ring.

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Minister for Navy: To use Saffron flag with green and white border defaced by a horizontal stockless anchor in middle.

N.B. This is in case a Minister for Navy is appointed

3. ADAPTATION OF THE FLAG.

Item (1) on para. 1 was then taken up. The Representative of the N.H.Q. observed that the suggestions for the adaptations described above could arise only if it is the policy to follow Dominion practice. This, he said, would be a great advantage from the services point of view. It would maintain intact the present associations with the British Navy. Also the Flag Officers are commissioned as Admirals of H.M's fleets and wear similar uniforms and the vessels of the Indian Navy are designated H.M.I. ships. It will be advantageous when sailing with other British vessels, as the Senior Officer would assume command irrespective of his being an Indian or British Officer.

The representative of the Commerce Ministry suggested that a ruling should be obtained as to whether we should keep the association with the Dominion practice or break away from it. It would no doubt be convenient if, as the N.H.Q. representative suggested, the present ties could be retained. Some of the Companies owning merchant vessels were, however, he said, of the view that we should start breaking off from the existing practice and adapt the National Flag for the merchant ships. This will involve an amendment of the Merchant Shipping Act, as otherwise we cannot use a flag other than the Red Ensign. The representative of the Constituent Assembly was of the opinion that

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we should take a long time view and adopt our flag accordingly. The Chairman also agreed that our adaptation of the National Flag should be such (a) as to establish the principle of Independence of India and (b) as to retain for India the balance of advantage by either retaining the Union Jack or discarding the same, as may be appropriate after due consideration.

. After a discussion, it was found that the example of the South African Union would, with suitable adaptations, by the use of the National Flag and Asoka's Wheel, be a desirable compromise which would serve both the immediate and long time purposes.

N.B. The latest information furnished by NHQ is that the S.A. Naval flag is a White Ensign (White (4-C) with the National flag in the Upper dexter Canton — a complete break from the Red Ensign (i.e. British Flag.

The Army Headquarters representative was concerned with only one item, namely, the flag flown by the Commander-in-Chief and Field Marshal. This was at present, the Union Jack. It was necessary that the officers of the lowest rank should distinguish the Commander-in-Chief and other officers in order to pay due respect to them. There were other distinctive flags for the staff officers which had nothing to do with the Union Jack. After a discussion it was decided that the adaptation of the National Flag was unnecessary and that the flag for the staff officers could be used for c-in-c with a superimposition of the Asoka's Wheel and cross-swords thereon. The staff officers could use a different design of the flag.

The representative of the Air Headquarters pointed out that the flag

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flag of the R.I.A.F. was the light blue ensign of the R.A.F. with the Star of India superimposed upon it (five star points round the Roundel which consists of three concentric circles of black (outer), white (middle) and red (inner)). On the 13th August, 1947, the Governor General and the Defence Minister agreed that the design should continue to be flown by units of the R.I.A.F. so long as India remained within the Commonwealth. It was also agreed that units of the R.I.A.F. should fly this ensign at the 'gaff' while at the flag-staff head of all units should be flown the National Flag of India. This practice should continue. The consensus of opinion was in favour of the proposal. As regards what officers should fly the ensign and other flags appropriate to their ranks, it was pointed out by the Chairman that this was not within the purview of the meeting.

4. DISTINCTIVE FLAGS FOR CIVILIANS:

The Army representative questioned whether there was need for such a distinction and whether for such purposes adaptation of the National Flag was necessary. The Chairman and others agreed that, apart from the Governor General and Governors, no other officials of State need have distinctive adaptations of the National Flag. If a distinction was required, a suitable design could be devised and used. The Governor-General and Governors could have their distinctive flags or adaptations of the National Flag.

5.....

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5. COMMERCIALISED USE OF THE SYMBOL OF THE NATIONAL FLAG.

It was agreed that measures should be devised to prohibit by law the use of the symbol of the National Flag in advertisements etc., in the trade.

6. USE OF FLAGS BY THE PUBLIC:

It was the view that indiscriminate use of the National Flag by members of the public would lower its honour. This should not, however, be prevented by any legislation. The aim should be to bring about a condition gradually by which the National Flag would be used only on days of national rejoicing. This may be achieved by first restrictin the use of the flag by officials of State (Government servants) and by proper education of the public and propaganda as to the sanctity of the cherished national symbol and its sparing use sparingly.

7. FLAGS OF ACCEDING STATES OF THE DOMINION.

The States representative observed that no special regulations were needed in this matter. States were already cooperating now with the Government of India in the matter of allowing Indian National Flag to be flown on ceremonia occasions side by side with the State Flag. Each State also desires its ow flag to be used profusely. It was no desirable to disturb the present harm nious relations. This was agreed to.

[ ] omitted as suggested by State Ministry (vide 4139)

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8. DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES:-

The Representative of the E.A. & C.R. Ministry pointed out that the Diplomatic representatives of India abroad have been instructed to use the National Flag without any adaptations, as this was considered unnecessary. This was also agreed to.

9. CENTRAL STORE FOR NATIONAL FLAGS.

It was agreed that the present system by which National Flags for civil requirements should be stored by the Defence authorities at their ordnance depots and that all civil offices, both central and provincial, should indent on these depots for the supply of the flags on payment.

10. LIST OF OFFICIALS ENTITIED TO FLY THE NATIONAL FLAGS AT THEIR OFFICES AND RESIDENCES AND THE BONNET OF THEIR CARS.

(i) Buildings: It was agreed that the existing lists in use should be brought up to date bearing in mind the following principle that flags should be hoisted on buildings which are the Headquarters of -

(a) the Executive authority of the State,

(b) the Judicial authority of the State, and

(c) the Legislative authority;

in Delhi, the Provincial Capitals, and District Headquarters and the offices of the representatives of the Govt. of India in Indian States and abroad.

(ii) Residences: The flying of flags should restricted to the representative of the tes at the Head of the Federation, the

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(124)

the Head of the Provinces in the State, representatives of the Government of India in the Indian States and the President of the Constituent Assembly of India.

N.B. The head of a State e.g. Kings and Presidents, etc of countries do not fly national flags but, other distinctive flags. In a majority of countries a square flag is used. — this was stated by N H Q Representative after the meeting.

(iii) Cars: Whosoever is allowed to use flags at residences can fly flags on bonnets of cars.

The Chairman also suggested that it should also be considered whether in addition to persons who can fly flags at residences as stated above, others should not be allowed to have the same privilege e.g., Hon'ble the Prime Minister of the Dominion, the Premiers of Provinces etc.

11. PUBLIC BUILDINGS: All other public buildings may fly flags only on occasions of public rejoicings.

12. OCCASIONS FOR FLAG FLYING:

It was agreed that flags should be flown on the following specific occasions throughout India :-

(a) His Majesty the King's Birthday.

(b) Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday. ×

(c) Indian Independence Day (15th August).

(d) Such other occasions as may be specified by the Central or Provincial Governments.

× will have to be omitted now. Why?

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

13. DURATION OF FLAG FLYING:

Sunrise to sunset.

14. HALF-MASTING OF FLAGS.

As may be directed by the Central and Provincial Governments.

15. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDING SIZES OF FLAGS, DISTINCTIVE FLAGS ETC.

This was a matter to be decided inter-ministerially.

11/2/48
Asst Secretary.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(126) 126 166

Copy of a letter No.F.94/47, dated the 28th July, 1947, from the Second Secretary, Embassy of India, Washington, D.C., to the Department of Commerce, New Delhi, India.

-- ----

I am directed to enclose a copy of a letter received from Mr. K.C. Ray, the India Seamen's Welfare Officer in New York, requesting information about flags after the 15th of August, 1947. Will you kindly supply us with material to answer this letter?

Embassy of India.

Indian Seamen's Welfare Office,
Room 312-44 Whitehall St.,
New York 4, N.Y.
July 24th 1947.

Ref: 66/392

Air Mail.

Dear Mr. Choprra,

Ref; Flag on Ships.

It is a general practice that when a foreign ship enters any country she flies the flag of that country as a courtesy. American ships while entering India used to fly the British flag in addition to their own.

I should be pleased if you would find out what procedure should be adopted in such case after the 15th Aug.47 and if any flag is to be flown for entering the Indian or Pakistan Ports, a full description of each official flag andwhether I should advise the shipping companies to observe this practice henceforth.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. K.C. Ray.

Indian Seamen's Welfare Officer.

I.S. Chopra, Esquire,
Second Secretary,
Embassy of India, Washington D.C.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(127) (97)

MINISTRY OF E.A. AND C.R.

From

Foreign,
New Delhi

To

Indembassy,
Washington.

No.D.3753-Pt/47, dated 6th October 1947.

Reference your letter to Ministry of Commerce No.F.94/47, dated the 28th July 1947, regarding the flying of flags by foreign ships entering IndianPorts.

2. Government of India would be grateful for a copy of any rules on the subject issued by the Government of the U.S.A. On receipt of this information, decision on the point raised in your letter will be arrived at and communicated to you.

The issue of the above has been authorised.

Sd. T.J. Natarajan.
Assistant Secretary (PT).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(125) (68)

MINISTRY OF E.A AND C.R.

FROM

FOREIGN,
NEW DELHI.

TO

HICOMIND,
LONDON.

NO.D.3753-Pt/47. Dated the 6th October 1947.

Government of India understand that it is a general practice that when a foreign ship enters any country she flies the flag of that country as a courtesy. Grateful for a copy of the rules, if any, on the subject issued by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, as it is proposed to prepare regulations on the subject in relation to the Indian flag.

Issue of the above has been authorised.

Sd. T.J. Natarajan.
Assistant Secretary (PT.)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(129) (69)

Office of the High Commissioner for India.

Your Ref.
No.D.3753-PT/47

No.HN.2140/47.EGH.
6th January 1948.

To

The Assistant Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations,
New DELHI.

Subject: Rules relating to Flying of Flags.

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated the 6th October 1947, concerning the general practice that when a foreign ship enters the waters of any country she flies the flag of that country as a courtesy, I am informed by H.M. Stationery Office that the Board of Trade do not know of any rules to this effect, neither does the Chamber of Shipping. H.M. Stationery Office have examined the Seamans Manual, International Code of Signals, Merchants Shipping List and Merchant Shipping Act, but regret that they cannot obtain any information therefrom.

2. I am, however, informed by the Admiralty that there are no international regulations applicable to merchant ships governing the procedure, but it is confirmed that it is the general practice for merchant ships, as an act of courtesy to the country being visited, towear at the foremast the ensign of the country for the duration of the visit. It is understood that in certain countries this act of courtesy is insisted on and is laid down in the port regulations. This procedure is not carried out however if the merchant ships are just passing through the territorial waters of any foreign country.

3. So far as H.M. Ships are concerned, definite instructions are contained in King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions. Article 72 is as follows:-

> "National Salutes- The Captain of a ship, or the Senior Officer ofmore than one ship, visiting a foreign port where there is a fort or saluting battery, or where a ship of the nation may be lying, shall salute the national flag with 21 guns, on being satisfied that the salute will be returned. A salute is not to be fired when passing through teritorial waters with no intention of anchoring, or making fast in any way, in them, even if a saluting station is passed, unless unusual circumstances make it desirable. The salute shall be fired on each occasion that a ship visits a foreign port, except that of a ship leaving port temporarily, when, by agreement with the local authorities, the salute on her return may be dispensed with. This rule has been concurred in by the maritime powers generally."

Article 94 (b) reads:

> "National Ensign- On arrival at a foreign port. The ensign of the foreign nation which is being saluted is to be hoisted at the main during the salute, if necessary alongside any Standard, flag or broad pendant which may already be hoisted in that position."

It will be seen that the foreign ensign will therefore only be flown on the occasion of the exchange of national salutes between the ship and the shore battery of the country concened and that the ensign will be hauled down at the termination of the salute.

4. It is hoped that his information will assist you in the formulation of rules in relation to the Indian Flag.

I have etc.

xxx

for Director General

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No.29

No.D.2592/47-O.S.III.
Government of India.
Ministry of External Affairs and
Commonwealth Relations.

New Delhi, the 16th January 1948.

A copy of the undermentioned paper is forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for necessary action in continuation of this Ministry U.O. No.D.2592/47-O.S.III dated the 6th January 1948. By order,

P. Mahanti

(P.N. Mahanti)
Deputy Secretary.

Letter No.P.27.3.1, dated the 29th December, 1947, with enclosures in original, from the High Commissioner for India in United Kingdom, regarding hoisting of flags.

Amar.13-1.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

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Copy of letter No. F.27.8.1, dated the 29th December 1947, from the High Commissioner for India, London, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, New Delhi, India.

With reference to your letter No. D.2592/47-OS.III, dated the 30th October 1947, I have the honour to forward a copy of the Rules framed by His MajestyIs Ministry of Works for the hoisting of flags.

Amar.14-1.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(132) 72

RULES FOR HOISTING FLAGS ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

The following Regulations are circulated by His Majesty's Command to the Government Offices concerned.

DATES ON WHICH FLAGS ARE TO BE FLOWN.
The dates named on the accompanying Schedule.

The only additions to the Schedule will be those which are notified to the Ministry of Works by His Majesty's Command, and they will be communicated by the Ministry of Works to the other Departments.

PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS.

The Schedule applies to Provincial as well as to London Buildings (but see Note 2); where it has been the practice - as in the case of some Custom Houses - to fly the flag daily, that practice may continue.

OCCASIONS ON WHICH FLAGS ARE TO BE FLOWN AT HALF MAST

(a) From the announcement of the death up to the funeral of the Sovereign, except on Proclamation Day, when they are hoisted right up from 8 a.m. to sunset.

(b) The funerals of members of the Royal Family, subject to special commands from His Majesty in each case.

(c) The funerals of Foreign Rulers, subject to special commands from His Majesty in each case.

(d) The funerals of Prime Ministers and Ex-Prime Ministers of Great Britain.

(e) Other occasions by special command from His Majesty which will be communicated by the Ministry of Works to other Departments.

RULES WHEN DAYS FOR FLYING FLAGS COINCIDE WITH DAYS FOR FLYING FLAGS AT HALF-MAST

To be flown:-

(a) although a member of the Royal Family, or a near relative of the Royal Family, may be lying dead, unless special commands be received from His Majesty to the contrary;

(b) although it may be the day of the funeral of a Foreign Ruler.

If the body of a very distinguished subject is lying at a Government Office the flag may fly at half mast on that office until the body has left (provided it is a day on which the flag would fly) and then the flag is to be joisted right up. On all other Public Buildings the flag will fly as usual.

Ministry of works S.E.1.

February, 1947.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(133)

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DAYS FOR HOISTING FLAGS ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

FROM 8 A.M. TILL SUNSET.

31ST MARCH.	BIRTHDAY OF THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER.
21ST APRIL.	BIRTHDAY OF PRINCESS ELIZABETH
25TH APRIL	BIRTHDAY OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL
26TH APRIL	THEIR MAJESTIES' WEDDING DAY.
12TH MAY	CORONATION DAY
24TH MAY	EMPIRE DAY
26TH MAY	BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY
4TH AUGUST	BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.
21ST AUGUST	BIRTHDAY OF PRINCESS MARGARET
NOVEMBER	REMEMBRANCE DAY (SEE NOTE 1)
11TH DECEMBER	HIS MAJESTY'S ACCESSION
14TH DECEMBER	HIS MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY

ALSO

Any day appointed for the official Celebration of His Majesty's Birthday.

The day of the opening of a Session of the Houses of Parliament by His Majesty (See Note 2)

The day of the prorogation of a Session of the Houses of Parliament by His Majesty (See Note 2)

NOTES:

1. Remembrance Day is the Sunday immediately prior to November 13th. Flags should be flown right up all day.

2. Flags should be flown on this day irrespective of whether or not His Majesty performs the ceremony in person but only from buildings in the Greater London area.

3. The Royal Standard is only to be hoisted when the King is actually present in the building and never when His Majesty is passing in Procession.

MINISTRY OF WORKS, S.E.I FEBRUARY, 1947

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No. 30

(134) 74

No.D.2592/47-O.S.III
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of External Affairs
& Commonwealth Relations,

New Delhi, the 27th January, 1948.

D.642/48-pub
29-1-48

A copy of the undermentioned papers is forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for necessary action in continuation of this Ministry's endorsement No.D.2592/47-OS III dated 16th January, 1948.

By order,

P.N.Mahanti

(P.N.Mahanti)
Deputy Secretary.

Fp. 1-4/Cor.

List of papers forwarded.

Letter No.HCC/RI-4/47 dated the 12th January,1948 with enclosures from the High Commissioner for India in Canada regarding hoisting of flags.

RCM/21.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(135) 25

Copy of letter No.HCC/RI-4/47 dated the 12th January, 1948 from the High Commissioner for India in Canada addressed to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, New Delhi.

.....

Sub:-Rules regarding use of national flags, etc.

I have the honour to refer to your letter No.D.2592/47-OS.III dated the 30th October, 1947 asking for a copy of the rules framed by the Government of Canada regarding the proper use of their national flag, and to enclose copy of a letter from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Canada, on the subject.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(136)

No. 1

The Secretary of State for External Affairs presents his compliments to the High Commissioner for India and has the honour to refer to the High ~~Commissioner's~~ Commissioner's Note of November 13, 1947, by which he is informed that the Government of India contemplates prescribing rules for the proper use of the Indian national flag and is requested to advise as to the Canadian regulations on the subject.

The Department of the Secretary of State to whom this query was referred state that the display of flags on land in Canada is not the subject of civilian regulations and is governed entirely by the dictates of good tastes and good judgment.

There are, of course, directives issued on the subject for use by the Departments of the Federal Government such as those contained in Order in Council P.C. 5888 of September 5, 1945, requiring the Canadian Red Ensign to be flown on Canadian Government buildings both at home and abroad. In this Order in Council there is a statement to the effect that it would be appropriate to fly the Canadian Red Ensign wherever the place or occasion may make it desirable to fly a distinctive Canadian flag until such time as Parliament adopts formally a national flag.

The following are instructions given to Canadian posts in foreign countries. It is considered appropriate to hoist the Canadian Red Ensign at both the Chancery and the official residence from sunrise to sunset as follows:

.....2)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

At Mast-head

On the day proclaimed for the official celebration in Canada of the King's Birthday (as notified annually by individual instruction).

On July 1st - Dominion Day.

On national and local holidays of the country in which post is situated.

During the stay in port of one of H.M.C. ships.

As a courtesy on the national holidays of other countries represented in the same capital, if in accordance with local custom.

At half-mast

(a) When official Canadian mourning requires it, in accordance with the instructions on official mourning.

(b) On the death or funeral of a local dignitary or of dignitaries or representatives of other countries represented at the capital, as signified by the foreign Chief of Protocol or Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

It is hoped this information will be a satisfactory answer to the query from the Indian Government.

.....

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.NO. 31

(135) 78

6

Government of Orissa
Home Department

D. 1031/48—Pl
14—2—48

D.O.No. 44 Reforms.

Cuttack
The 23rd January, 1948

My dear Bannerjee,

I am desired to suggest for the consideration of the Government of India that in order to uphold the dignity of the Indian Dominion flag, instructions or orders may be issued with a view to (a) restrict its display and (b) ensure that it is not flown along with sectarian, communal, or party flags or, except under special orders, with the flags of other nationalities and countries. The Provincial Government feel that there is at present all too common a tendency for all kinds of people to fly the flag on all sorts of occasions, very often in conjunction with party or communal flags.

Yours sincerely,

R. C. Mahapatra

R.N.Bannerjee, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi.

Bose.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. 32

(139) 79

D.O.No. 100/48-P.S
Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi,
30th January 1948.

Issued.
24/2/48.

How does this case stand? Is a reply to be sent?
24/2

Will you please refer to your demi-official letter No. 44-Reforms dated the 23rd January 1948 about the Indian Dominion flag? This aspect of the use of the flag has been under active examination in our Ministry and instructions are likely to issue in the near future. We of course entirely agree with your views.

(R.N. BANERJEE)

B.C. Mukharji, Esquire, ICS,
Secretary to the Govt. of Orissa,
Home Department.

Please disinter and give it to me. Secy has seen the draft proceedings of the flag meeting. Submission will be drafted shortly
avk
13/2/48

P.K.
18/2/48

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(140) 22

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS.

New Delhi.

No.D.4456-G/47. 7th October 1947.

Dear Chancery,

The Government of India intend to prescribe rules for the proper use of the Indian National Flag with particular reference to the persons who are entitled to fly the flag, including the occasions on and the objects from which it should be flawn. The rules would also include prohibitions against its misuse. Before formulating these rules, they wish to know whether there are any rules or directives on the subject framed by the Government of the U.S.A./ the U.S.S.R./ China. It is requested that enquiries may kindly be made in this matter and such information as is available supplied to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, direct together with a copy of rules, if any, under intimation to this Ministry.

Yours

To
1. The Chancery, Indian Embassy,
2. " " Washington. Ministry of EA & CR.
3. " " Moscow.
Nanking.

Copy forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, with reference to their u/o No.3158/47-Public, d/ 18.9.47.

By order etc.,

sd. M.K.Narayanan,

A. S.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(41) 81

By Air Mail.

No.D.2592/47-OS.III.,
Government of India,
Ministry of External Affairs and
Commonwealth Relations,
New Delhi, the 30th October, 1947.

From

Rai Sahib P.N.Mahanti, M.A.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To 1. The High Commissioner for India in Australia,
Canberra.
2. The High Commissioner for India in Canada,
Hotel Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, Canada.
3. The High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom
India House, Aldwych, London.

Rules regarding the proper use
of National Flags, etc.

Sir,

I am directed to say that the Government of India intend to prescribe rules for the proper use of the Indian National Flag with particular reference to the persons who are entitled to fly the flag, including the occasions on and the objects from which it should be flown. The rules would also include prohibitions against its misuse. Before formulating these rules, they wish to know whether there are any rules or directives on the subject framed by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia / Canada / the United Kingdom. It is requested that enquiries may kindly be made in this matter and such information as is available supplied to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, direct together with a copy of rules, if any, under intimation to this Ministry.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- P.N.Mahanti

Deputy Secretary.

CH.25.10.

No.D.2592/47-OS.III.

Copy forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, with reference to their u.o.No.3158/47, Public, dated the 18th September, 1947.

By order,

Sd/- P.N. Mahanti

Deputy Secretary.

Q/LD 28/10 30/10

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. 33

(142) 82

TELEGRAM BY AIR MAIL.

ISSUED On 8/12 Initial 3 R. O. I. P.

HICOMIND

LONDON

87/2/-PUBLIC (B) PLEASE SEND MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS NEW DELHI BY AIR MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE COPY OF COLONIAL REGULATIONS NUMBERS 148-155 REGARDING FLYING OF FLAGS SEE KEITH'S RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT VOLUME III PAGE 1314 (.) MATTER URGENT (.)

ILLUSTRE

No.87/2/47-Public (B) New Delhi, 3, the 8th December 1947.

Copy by post in confirmation to the High Commissioner for India, London.

BMS

ISSUED On 8/12 Initial 2 R. O. I.

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Action in Colonial Regulations received with the Note Thereon please

BS

BS

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

A.S.(PG) 24/1 S. No. 34 (143) 83

Form No. XXIX, S. I., 1924.

Government of West Bengal

Home (Political) Department D. 1086/48-PG 16-2-48

From:- R.Ghosh, Esq.,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal.

To :- The Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi. 3.

No....402.-P...., *dated Calcutta, the*..21st January,.....*1948*.

Subject:- Hoisting of flags on Government buildings on certain days.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with the Government of India, Home Department Endorsement No. F.206/36-Public dated the 9th June, 1936, on the subject noted above. Owing to constitutional changes, Indian National Flag is now flown on Government buildings in place of the Union Jack. In order that the practice in different Provinces may be uniform, it is desirable that an authorised list of days on which Indian National Flags are to be flown on Government buildings should be laid down by the Government of India. I am to request that, if there be no objection, the matter may be given an early consideration and the decision of the Government of India communicated to this Government in due course.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

R.Ghosh

Under Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal.

SD. 21.1.

21.1.48

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. 35

(144) 84

No.87/2/47-Public.
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs.
New Delhi, the 14th February 1948.

To

The Under Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal.,

Home (Political) Department,

Subject:- Hoisting of National Flag-
Government Buildings- Occasion.

Sir,

P.83/Cor.

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 402-P, dated the 21st January 1948 and to say that instructions in the matter will be issued shortly.

I have etc.,

Sd. A.V.Raman.
A.S.(Pb).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

MESSAGE FORM

A. R.P./M. 3

Date	Time at which despatch of message was completed.	Telephonist's Initials.

Address to :—

Text of Message :—

Time of origin of Message :—

Address from :—

Signature (of official authorising the despatch of an "out" message)

Serial No. of Incident (inserted in Control Room)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. 36

146

No.4492/47-3

Public(Political)Department,
Fort St.George, Madras,
Dated 19th January 1948.

Dy-160-5 11/48-Public.
D 26-1-48.

From

K. Ramunni Menon Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

To.

The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Ministry of Home Affairs(India),
New Delhi.3.

Sir,

Flags, National - Flying of. - Governor's residences.

...

Ref:- This Government's letterNo.4492/47-1,Public(Political),
dated the 6th November 1947.

...

I am directed to enquire when a reply to the letter cited may be expected.

Your obedient servant,

D Gopal Menon

for Chief Secretary to Government.

Gm

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. [illegible]

(147)

86

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC (GENERAL-A) DEPARTMENT
Letter No.490/48-1.
**

From

K. Ramunni Menon, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

D. 1066/48-P4
16-2-48

Fort St.George the 21st January 1948.

..

Sir,

Sub: FLAGS - Indian National Flag - Proper use of - Instructions.

--

I am directed to enclose a copy of a Press Note No.P-1659 dated 29-8-1947 issued by the Government of Bombay on the above subject. I am to enquire whether the Government of India contemplate issuing general instructions regarding the use of the Flag throughout India. If it is not already under their active consideration, this Government would recommend that the question be taken up without delay.

Your obedient servant,

21/1/48

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Bhp.21/1 (with enclosure)

Issue letter below to Madras.
We proposed to finalise instructions but there has been delay.
A V Raman
13/2/48

4/211

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(148)

ENCLOSURE.

P- 1659/29-8-1947
Director of Publicity Govt. of Bombay.

NATIONAL FLAG IS HIGHEST SYMBOL OF INDIA'S HONOUR. ITS USE IS RESTRICTED TO CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS:- The Indian Nation celebrated with ecstatic joy the dawn of Independence on August 15, and the mob popular and visible symbol of this joy throughout the length and breadth of India was the Indian National Flag, recently consecrated by the chosen representatives of the nation at Constituent Assembly in Delhi.

It was indeed a proud and edifying spectacle to see how the people had taken to their hearts this gay and beautiful symbol of the priceless gift of liberty, and it was a thrilling experience to see the National Flag fluttering proudly from the tallest mansion and the lowest hut on Independence Day.

The Government of Bombay wishes to draw the attention of the public to the fact that the tricolour stands for every Indian as the symbol of National honour and sovereignty and the Government has recently noticed with deep regret that in many instances the National Flags, used on Independence Day were not taken off and put away after celebrations as is customary, but, some of these flags had fluttered into shreds, and the paper flags had been thrown away, to be trampled upon and torn, as any piece of waste paper might be. This, from a people who have just won a flag of their own only shows how little of the tremendous significance of a national flag has been grasped by them.

INTERNATIONAL RESPECT.

From now on, the nations of the world will respect the Flag of India as all other national flags are respected, and it is the duty of every Indian to try and understand the true significance and exalted position of the flag of his own country.

The national flag has its specific use also, and the Government wishes to make it known to the public that except on special occasions of national festivity, the flag may not be used by private individuals for purposes of decorating houses, grounds or vehicles. The national flag is an emblem which is used in all countries by special representative of the Government possessing authority, and since it signifies authority, no one, without this privilege, is seen to fly the flag on motor vehicles or on house-tops. The flag calls for respect and honour and the set forms and rules laid down by all free countries must also be observed by all Indians.

The Government of Bombay, therefore, appeals to the Press in particular, to make it a special feature to impress on the mind of the public the spirit, significance and inspiring presence of the Tricolour and explain its place in the life of every Indian. It is always to be borne in mind that the National Flag is sacred, having been sanctioned by the blood of martyrs, and hence it demands our deepest devotion, honour and homage.

****

Bhp.21/1. (TRUE COPY)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(149) S.No.38

88

No.F.87/2/47-Public.
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs.
New Delhi, the 14th February 1948.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Madras,

Subject: Indian National Flag-
Proper Uses- Instructions.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No.490/4-1 dated the 21st January 1948 and to say that the Government of India have already under active consideration the question of issue of suitable instructions regarding the proper use of the National Flag. It is proposed to issue them very shortly.

2. As regards your letter No.4492/47-1Public (Political) of the 6th November 1947 regarding flying of national flags on Governor's residence, the matter is still under consideration. Instructions will issue shortly along with those referred to in para. 1 above.

I have etc.,

Sd. A.V. Raman.
13.2.48.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Serial 39 (150) 89

No.D.1469-G/48.
Government of India.
Ministry of States.

Dated New Delhi, the 16th February 1948.

Office Memorandum.

National Flag. Proceedings of
Inter-Departmental meeting.

The undersigned is directed to invite a reference to the Office Memorandum from the Ministry of Home Affairs, No.87/2/47,Public dated the 13th February 1948 and to suggest that the following amendment may be made in the draft minutes:-

16/2/48

Page 7 - paragraph 7 -
Delete "Side by side with....
...its own flag to be
used profusely."

p. 62 Cor.

Deputy Secretary to
the Government of India.

To

Ministry of Home Affairs
(Rao Sahib A.V.Raman).

-=-

Dangwal/16/2/

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Serial 40

AIR MAIL.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

EXPRESS LETTER.

From

Sri A.V.Raman, M.A.,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras,

MADRAS.

No.87/2/47-Public. New Delhi 3, the 6th April, 1948.

Subject:- Indian National Flag - Proper Use Of - Instructions.

Reference your letter No.490/48-1, dated the 28th January, 1948, we have under active consideration instructions for the proper use of the Indian National Flag. You will be addressed as soon as the instructions are finalized.

(A.V.Raman),
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA